FRANCE. No. 1 (1908).

REPORT

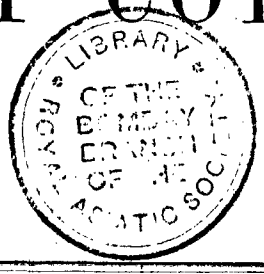
BY THE

HON. REGINALD LISTER,

HIS MAJESTY'S MINISTER AT PARIS,

UPON THE

FRENCH COLONIES.



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on 31 October, 2019

Report by the Hon. Reginald Lister, His Majesty's Minister at Paris, upon the French Colonies.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 22.)

Sir, *Paris, November* 20, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a Report drawn up by Mr. Lister with regard to French colonial policy, and the position of the French Colonies from 1900 to 1906.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

Inclosure.

Report by Mr. Lister upon French Colonial Policy and the Position of the French Colonies from 1900 to 1906.

THE most striking feature in French colonial policy during the first six years of the twentieth century is undoubtedly the triumph of the idea that the policy of "domination" and "assimilation" is impracticable; that it must be discarded, and that a policy of "association" must be substituted for it. This policy of associating the native in the administration of his country, of making him participate in the moral and material prosperity introduced by the benefits of French economic and social progress, was first advocated by M. Dubief in 1903. It was actively followed by M. Clémentel during his period of office as Minister of the Colonies, and was continued by his successor at the Pavillon de Flore, M. Leygues. The latter, speaking at the banquet of the Colonial Congress in Paris, declared in so many words that the policy of assimilation was disastrous, and must be abandoned. There existed, no doubt, he said, in the genius of the various races which peopled the earth, equivalents, but no identities. Why then should the French seek to impose their habit of mind, their tastes, their manners, and their laws on people for whom the words family, society, and property had a perfectly different meaning? The attempt would be not only useless but also dangerous, for it must inevitably arouse feelings of mistrust and anger.

The evil results attributed to the policy of assimilation by the advocates of association are threefold. They maintain that:—

1. By a spirit of formalism and a love of uniformity it has disregarded the special needs of each particular Colony.
2. By a spirit of domination it has imposed—sometimes brutally—its own rules and methods, upsetting in one day organizations which have existed for centuries, and thus arousing feeling of hatred and revolt.
3. By insisting upon an absolutely direct administration it has hampered every French possession with a complicated administrative machinery, the least evil of which is that it imposes heavy burdens on the Treasury.

On account of the tropical position and the sparse population of most of the French Colonies, it is argued that the creation of Colonies in the sense of Settlements of French people, in which French methods, habits, and organizations will reign supreme, is out of the question. The value of the Colonies to France is commercial; her conquests should be economic, and the object of her colonial policy should be not to plant offshoots of the French race in new countries, as was the case in old days (*e.g.*, the Antilles and Canada), but to further the economic development of these countries

in order to secure commercial outlets—in the words of Victor Hugo, "to civilize rather than to colonize."

With this end in view it is urged that the first care of the French Government should be to hasten by all available means the moral and economic evolution of the native populations, seeing that the best way to get value out of a Colony is to enrich the natives who inhabit it. On the one hand the producing power of the natives is increased which enables the mother-country to draw to a larger extent from her Colonies the special commodities which her own soil does not produce, and to procure the raw material which otherwise she would have to obtain from the foreigner. On the other hand, the power of consumption of the natives is extended, and the mother-country is consequently able to increase the exportation to the Colony of her finished goods.

But this new view of colonial policy demands a transformation of the whole French colonial organization, for its adoption entails the grant to the Colonies of a large measure of autonomy and the decentralization of the Colonial Administration.

In the domain of finance a great step in this direction was made by the Finance Law of the 13th April, 1900, Article 33 of which laid down that in future the Colonies were to provide for their own civil expenditure and for their gendarmerie, the State granting them a subvention in the event of their resources proving inadequate. The State was to continue to assume the military expenditure entailed by their defence, but would reimburse itself by means of contributions to be paid by the Colonies. These contributions might not exceed the amount of the military expenditure entailed.

The expenditure for the colonial army thus remains absolutely centralized. The whole management continues in the hands of the Minister of War and the Minister of the Colonies, both as regards general direction and all details of execution. The credits for its maintenance are voted in Paris, and they are controlled solely by the Minister of the Colonies. The Colonial Military Budget in this respect is identical with the Budgets of the other Governmental Departments, and is governed by the principle of centralization which characterizes the French financial system in general.

The case of the civil expenditure, on the other hand, is very different. The only items of civil expenditure for the Colonies at present assumed directly by the State are those which belong essentially to the Central Administration.* All the civil expenditure engaged in the Colonies is dealt with in separate Budgets for each Colony, and the State only intervenes in the case of the local resources proving inadequate to make up the deficit by a subvention. Here we have the principles of federation and decentralization, which have hitherto been quite foreign to the French system.

The experiment of financial autonomy had already been tried as early as 1826 in the case of Martinique, Guadeloupe, Réunion, and French Guiana, but resulted in failure owing to the excessive pretensions of the Councils of the four Colonies. In 1844 it was found necessary to return to the old system and replace the local Budgets of the four Colonies on their previous footing.

By the *Senatus-Consultum* of the 3rd May, 1854, the system of centralization was still further accentuated. The State assumed almost the whole expenditure for the Colonies, although it was laid down that, in the event of the revenue of the Colony exceeding its expenditure, a contribution was to be paid to the Treasury; on the other hand, subventions were promised by the State in the case of the local resources proving inadequate. This system resulted, as it was fatally bound to, in a continual increase of the burdens to be assumed by the State, and another change was made. By the *Senatus-Consultum* of the 4th July, 1866, it was laid down that the only expenses to be assumed by the State were those of "sovereignty," viz., the military expenditure and the salaries of Governors, Treasurers, Magistrates, and Ecclesiastics. All remaining expenditure was to be defrayed by the local Budgets voted in Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Réunion respectively by the "Conseils Généraux." The latter bodies were invested with very considerable powers and prerogatives. The principle of contributions and subventions was maintained.

This system became the model for all French possessions, and was extended by a series of Decrees dating from 1878 to 1885 to the other more recently acquired Colonies—Guiana, the French possessions in India, Senegal, New Caledonia, St. Pierre, and Miquelon.

Just about the latter date the French Colonial Empire was considerably extended by the acquisition of vast territories (Cochin China, Tonquin, French West Africa, &c.), inhabited by highly-civilized populations, rich in natural resources, and well able to suffice to their own needs. The system of the *Senatus-Consultum* of 1866 appeared out

* The State also assumes certain expenses connected with the encouragement of works of public or rivate initiative which may be susceptible of assisting the development of the Colonies.

of date, the necessity for a change made itself felt, and clause 33 was introduced into the Finance Law of 1900.

Since the application of the new system, the subventions granted to the Colonies have decreased every year. At the present moment only nine Colonies receive subventions, viz., Martinique, Guadeloupe, Réunion, New Caledonia, the French possessions in India, the French Congo, the Somali Coast, Tahiti, and St. Pierre and Miquelon; amongst the remainder, three—Indo-China, French West Africa, and Madagascar—pay contributions to the Treasury, the first named a very considerable one.

The financial results of the new system therefore have been good, and the gradual suppression of subventions will no doubt continue. In his Report on behalf of the Committee charged to examine the local Colonial Budgets, M. Hubert, whilst duly recognizing these satisfactory results of the policy of decentralization, expresses the opinion that the mode of applying the system is open to certain criticisms. The subventions, he holds, have been too often reduced by a method of mere arithmetical proportion, and arbitrary decisions are taken without proper consideration for special situations. For instance, French Guiana and the French possessions in India retain allowances which they do not require; whereas the subventions granted to the Colonies of St. Pierre and Miquelon and Tahiti, which require assistance to pay their postal service (a charge defrayed by the State in all other Colonies), are reduced. The contribution to be paid by Indo-China has been increased, although the financial situation of the Colony has, if anything, changed for the worse, and the contingent to be paid by the French possessions in West Africa has been fixed at the same figure for five years, although there is no reason to believe that the financial situation of the Colonies will remain absolutely stationary.

M. Hubert admits that the procedure by arithmetical proportion in settling the amounts of the subventions and contributions, to which he objects, has to some extent been necessitated by the existing system. According to the present arrangement, Parliament is called upon to fix these amounts before the local Budgets have been submitted to it, and when it consequently is in ignorance of the state of the various Colonies. The matter has been very freely discussed, and a remedy has been proposed which will be referred to later on.

M. Hubert then proceeds to examine the question of the control which, notwithstanding all the merits of decentralization, should, in his opinion, be exercised in some form by the central power over the local colonial authorities.

There exist in the French Colonies three kinds of Assemblies, originally intended to exercise control over the administrative authority—(1) "Conseils Généraux," (2) the Colonial Council of Cochin China, and (3) "Conseils Consultatifs."

1. Seven Colonies possess "Conseils Généraux"; three by virtue of acts having the force of law, viz., Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Réunion; four by virtue of Decrees, French Guiana, New Caledonia, Senegal, and the French possessions in India. The suffrage by which these "Conseils" are elected varies in the different Colonies. In the Antilles and Réunion it is, as in France, universal; in French Guiana and New Caledonia the French population alone vote; in Senegal the inhabitants of St. Louis, Gorée, Dakar, and Rufisque alone vote. In the French possessions in India there are two lists, one for the French population numbering about 3,000, the other for the natives numbering about 270,000. The former elect 13 Councillors, the latter 15.

The functions of the "Conseil Général" of the Colonies are much the same as those of the corresponding bodies in France (Departmental Councils). It does not interfere in the local Administration, but exercises a preponderant influence in all fiscal and financial matters, notably as regards the Budget. In fiscal matters the "Conseil Général" fixes the assessment of the taxes and the regulations for their collection, its decisions being subject to the sanction of the Council of State. The establishment of the Customs Tariff remains, however, in the hands of the Home Government.

In the Antilles, Réunion, and French Guiana, the Budget is practically voted by the "Conseils Généraux"; in Senegal, the French possessions in India, and New Caledonia, the initiative in proposing the expenditure rests with the Governor, the "Conseils Généraux" retaining the right to reduce or increase the credits. The prerogatives of the "Conseils Généraux" are thus very considerable: no tax can be imposed or modified without their initiative; no item of expenditure, with the exception of those which regard the essential "services de souveraineté" (government, justice, police, gendarmerie, customs), can be undertaken until they have voted the necessary credits.

2. The Colonial Council of Cochin China consists of sixteen members: twelve Councillors elected half by the French numbering 4,500, out of a total population of

2,969,000, and half by the Annamite communes, representing about 250,000 natives; two delegates of the Chamber of Commerce of Saigon; two notables, members of the Privy Council of Cochin China, named by Decree. The duration of the mandate is for four years. One-half of the members of the Colonial Council is renewed every two years.

The Colonial Council determines by Decree the nature of the taxes and the regulations for their collection, and has absolute power in voting the tariffs. With regard to the Budget it enjoys similar prerogatives to those of the "Conseils Généraux," but the Minister for the Colonies exercises larger restrictive rights with regard to expenditure.

The powers of the Colonial Council are thus larger than those of the "Conseils Généraux" as regards taxation, as it has supreme control over the tariffs; as regards expenditure its attributions are more restricted.

3. In all the Colonies, even in those possessing "Conseils Généraux," and in Cochin China, "Conseils" exist under the name of "Conseils Consultatifs" for the purpose of advising the Governor of the Colony. They are composed of high officials and notables of the native population.

As stated above, the intention of the Legislature in summoning the representatives of the population under the name of "Conseils Généraux" to exercise a direct control over the management of the public finances was no doubt to guarantee the tax-payers against the possible extravagance and maladministration of the authorities, unfortunately, however, this object has not been attained. Experience shows us that so far from restraining expenditure, the "Conseils Généraux" have tended largely to increase it, and their pretensions have on more than one occasion necessitated the intervention of the Central Government. In fact, the finances of all Colonies possessing "Conseils Généraux" are, with the exception of Martinique, the French possessions in India, and French Guiana, in a condition which leaves much to be desired. They all, with the exception of French Guiana, receive subventions from the State, and whereas all the other districts which compose French West Africa have attained a remarkable degree of financial prosperity, the finances of Senegal, managed by a "Conseil Général," give cause for considerable anxiety.

The "Conseil Colonial" of Cochin China has worked fairly well, but unfortunately the conditions of an old civilization and a highly-cultured autochthonous population, which render its existence possible in Indo-China, are not to be found in many of the other French Colonies.

The "Conseils Consultatifs" serve a useful purpose as a brake, but, of course, possessing no definite attributions, and being composed generally of members who depend more or less on the authorities, their power is not very large. It is therefore necessary to devise some different and more effectual form of control.

After dismissing as quite impracticable the idea of control by the "Conseil Supérieur des Colonies" or by Parliament, M. Hubert expresses the opinion that the control must be vested in the Central Administration. It should, he considers, be exercised by two bodies of men, the first to consist of officials resident in Paris thoroughly cognizant of colonial matters, and sufficiently removed from questions of detail to be able to take a broad general view; the second of a body of Inspectors, who would act as direct delegates of the Ministry, and, when necessary, visit the various Colonies and investigate on the spot the existing facts and conditions. The formula of Colonial Administration would then be the following: Initiative to be taken on the spot; control to be exercised in Paris, with power to delegate Inspectors on special missions of investigation.

All details of execution and all the current business should be transferred to the local Administrations, who would be represented in France by special offices paid by them, to which the Governors would delegate the various services to be executed in the metropolis. The Ministry itself, thus relieved of the overwhelming burden of current work entailed by the administration of the Colonies, would be free to execute properly the duties of control.

The main obstacle in the way of such an arrangement is the fact that the system at present followed for the colonial military organization is the exact opposite of that governing the Colonial Civil Service. The former is absolutely centralized, the latter is decentralized. The former is paid by the State, the latter is paid by the Colonies.

The opinion has already been freely expressed by competent authorities that the military system should be decentralized and brought under the régime introduced by the Law of the 23rd April, 1900, but this unfortunately appears impracticable until Algeria, which is now under the Ministry of the Interior, is placed under the Ministry of the Colonies. At the same time, M. Hubert urges that a step forward might be

made, and that at all events the expenditure for the upkeep of the troops, for provisions material, &c., should be defrayed by the Colonies, subject to the grant of compensatory subventions. The special offices alluded to above would then undertake to provide for all the requirements of the various services of the Colonies, both civil and military, the expedition of public business would be vastly facilitated, and the Colonies would very probably, by managing their own affairs in the metropolis, realize economies sufficient to meet the expenditure of the organization of the offices.

Without imposing any extra charge on any Budget, but by a mere improvement in the system, the State would free itself from obligations which it fulfilled indifferently, and which were consequently only all the more costly. The Ministry of the Colonies would have leisure to follow carefully the execution and preparation of the local Budgets, and could present to Parliament a yearly Report, stating the measures taken in conformity with the wishes of the Legislature. This Report, presented to Parliament at the same time as the general Budget, would act more or less as an "Exposé des Motifs" to the portion dealing with colonial subventions and contributions. A proper appreciation of the actual condition and requirements of the various Colonies would be rendered possible, and a just estimate could be formed of the appropriate amounts to be voted in each particular case. In this manner the objection raised by M. Hubert to the existing system, by which the amounts of the subventions and contributions are fixed by Parliament at a moment when it ignores the real condition of the Colony, would be removed.

During the last few years a special study has been made of the British system of Colonial Administration. M. Lesage in 1897, M. Picard in 1902, and more recently M. de Saint-Germain, the distinguished Senator for Oran, who has for the last six years drawn up the Report on behalf of the Colonial Budget Committee of the Senate, have examined the whole question very thoroughly, and have sought by a comparative study of the two systems to ascertain the reforms which might with advantage be introduced in the French Colonial Administration. The British system of the General Agencies for the self-governing Colonies has been discarded as impracticable and too foreign to French ideas, but the consensus of opinion appears to be favourable to the creation of an organization analogous to that of the Crown Agencies for the Colonies.

Policy with regard to the Natives.

The attention of the authorities during the last few years has been very largely occupied with the question of the policy to be followed with regard to the natives.

In a series of instructions issued by M. Clémentel during his tenure of office to the Governors of the various Colonies, the following principles were laid down for their guidance in this respect:—

(1.) Absolute respect for the individuality of the native.
(2.) The preservation and development of the race.
(3.) Respect for existing native property.
(4.) The introduction of a more suitable fiscal system.
(5.) The development of the moral well-being of the native by means of education.
(6.) The exercise of special care in the selection of the staff of teachers, French and native alike.

1. The first recommendation might appear at first sight almost superfluous, but was rendered necessary by the regrettable incidents in the French Congo which were brought to light at the beginning of the year 1905, when it was ascertained that two French officials—M. Toqué, Administrateur Adjoint des Colonies; and M. Gaud, Adjoint des Affaires Indigènes—had been guilty of a series of acts of cruelty to the natives.

2. Special attention is being paid to the preservation and development of the race throughout the French Colonial Empire. Every effort is being made to inculcate amongst the natives some idea of hygiene and the necessity for a proper respect of the water supplies. Sterilization and disinfecting apparatus have been set up at the principal administrative centres. The number of native doctors practising under European surveillance has been largely increased, and schools of practical medicine—hospitals, dispensaries, lying-in homes, &c.—are being established as fast as possible.

Madagascar boasts of an "Institut Pasteur," and a remarkable staff of native doctors and native midwives; in Cochin-China there exist no less than seventy-two establishments for medical aid, at an annual cost of 78,400*l.*; and in the recent West African Loan a sum of 120,000*l.* has been ear-marked for medical aid.

3. The instructions go farther than the mere respect of existing property, for not only is the native to be maintained in the property which he owns, but he is to be assisted in every way by advice and guidance in the cultivation of the soil. Very satisfactory results are being obtained from this system in Indo-China, and in certain Colonies the Government have gone a step further and have granted plots of land to intelligent natives for the special cultivation of certain crops.

4. The question of the introduction of a more suitable fiscal system is one which requires most delicate handling, difficulties having already arisen with the natives of certain Colonies in connection with the creation of monopolies, a form of fiscal procedure which they cannot understand.

Education of natives.

5. M. Gervais, in an annex to his Report on the Colonial Budget for 1907, discusses at considerable length the question of the education of the natives. He lays great stress on the fact that their education should be appropriate to their requirements, and suitable to their various forms of mentality. It should be education in the broadest sense of the word, aiming at a real improvement of the moral condition of the natives, and not content with merely inculcating a certain amount of professional knowledge. At the outset of French colonial expansion, he writes, the home authorities in their insane idea of assimilating the natives, laid down that the French language was to take the place of all others throughout the Colonial Empire. It was at the same time looked upon as *infra dig.* that the conquering Frenchman should learn the language of the conquered race. The result was a deadlock, which necessitated recourse to the pernicious system of interpreters. Fortunately the views of those in power have now changed, and a system of education has been adopted, based on the following practical lines :—

1. Native education to be respected and kept up.
2. The education given to the natives to be, above all, professional.
3. The teaching of French to be elementary.
4. Each Colony to have a system of education in harmony with its needs and aspirations.

On the 19th October, 1906, M. Leygues issued a Decree reorganizing the "Comité Supérieur Consultatif de l'Instruction Publique des Colonies," and adding to it a "Permanent Secrétariat." In addition to the high officials of the Ministry for the Colonies, the professors of technical education and political science, &c., this Committee is to comprise five business men having establishments or vested interests in the Colonies. This innovation demonstrates clearly the desire to give a more practical character to the educational system of the Colonies. The Committee is to examine all questions relating to—

(1.) The administrative organization of education in the Colonies.
(2.) The organization of actual teaching.
(3.) The recruiting of the staff, and the creation and supervision of "Écoles Normales" in the Colonies.
(4.) The position and promotion in the home service of the staff seconded for work in the Colonies.

There is no doubt that education has made great progress in the French Colonies during the last eight years, more especially in Indo-China and Madagascar, thanks to the initiative of their respective Governors—in the former M. Doumer and his successor, M. Beau; in the latter Général Gallieni.

In Indo-China, where the various races are particularly intelligent and have intellectual and artistic traditions dating from centuries, every effort to promote education is being made by the Governor, assisted by a "Conseil de Perfectionnement de l'Enseignement" selected from among "Frenchmen or Asiatics, who by their experience of the manners and mentality of the natives, by their knowledge of the history and philosophy and the languages of the Far East, or by their comparative studies of the educational methods of the neighbouring countries, are qualified to give an authoritative opinion."

The duties of this Council are :—

(1.) To study all questions relating to the creation or reorganization of the native education, notably—
  (*a.*) The reconstitution of the schools of Chinese characters in Cochin China.
  (*b.*) The remodelling of the programmes of the triennial examinations in Annam and Tonquin with a view to completing them with a summary knowledge of French and science.

(*c.*) The improvement of the teaching given in the pagodas in Cambodia and in Laos.

(*d.*) The conditions under which a University might be founded which would comprise classes for the higher education of the natives of Indo-China and Asiatics generally.

(2.) To examine the text of the manuals and dictionaries, &c. of the principal languages published by the Administration or under its patronage.

(3.) To draw up and superintend the publication of a periodical bulletin for the native professors and men of letters.

(4.) To collect from among the works of native literature, philosophy, and history, ancient and modern, those which are worth preserving and re-editing.

In 1899, in Cochin China, some 15,000 children out of 300,000 attended the schools, 10,000 of whom were taught nothing beyond Chinese characters and the Annamite language by native teachers. At the present moment, including the pupils of the Congregational schools, 22,500 children receive a French education.

In Cambodia, in 1898, previous to the arrival of M. Doumer, there were two French schools. In 1906 the number had risen to nine official schools, one of which was professional, attended by 785 pupils. Some 200 pupils are also taught in private Congregational schools.

In Laos there were no schools in 1898. There are now two provincial and several cantonal schools.

In Annam and Tonquin the authorities have been most active. The municipal school of Hanoi has been transformed into a college, and scholarships permitting residence at Hong Kong, Shanghae, and Singapore have been created. The recruiting of teachers is to be assured by a special school at Hanoi. Another school has been established to prepare a staff of officials to be employed in public works, the ordnance survey, railways, posts and telegraphs, commerce, industry, and agriculture.

Madagascar.

In 1896 there existed in Madagascar only a few private schools founded by the various Missionary Societies who had been settled in the country for some forty years. At the present moment 22,500 natives attend 550 official schools, nine of which are professional. There are, moreover, at Antananarivo a professional school, a school of medicine, and a school of sericulture. There are also upwards of 182 private schools attended by some 20,000 pupils.

French West Africa.

In Senegal, in 1898, there were 9 primary schools and 1 secondary, directed by Congregationists. In 1906 the number had risen to 34 official schools with 3,431 pupils and 5 private Catholic schools with 161 pupils.

In Dahomey, in 1898, there was 1 official lay school, 1 free lay school, 6 regimental schools, and 12 religious schools.

In 1906 the number had risen to 8 official schools with 600 pupils, and 15 private schools with 2,000 pupils.

In French Guinea there were, in 1898, 8 private schools attended by 363 pupils. There were, in 1906, 17 official schools with 1,400 pupils, 6 Catholic schools with 200 pupils, and 1 Protestant school with 20 pupils.

In the French Soudan the organization of education was very elementary until 1902, when a special staff of teachers, recruited mainly from Algeria, were added to the schools of Medina, Bafoulabé, Baufora, Timbuctoo, Segoo, and Bobo Dionlasso.

The population of children in French West Africa of an age to go to school amounts to upwards of 1,200,000, only 10,000 of which attend school. At the same time, the so-called "Koran" schools must not be forgotten, which are attended by some 43,000 pupils.

The following table shows the sums devoted to education in each one of the Colonies:—

Colonies.	Expenditure for Public Instruction.	Year.	Colonies.	Expenditure for Public Instruction.	Year.
	£			£	
St. Pierre and Miquelon ..	1,093	1906	Indo-China—		
Martinique	30,107	..	Annam	3,207	..
Guadeloupe	28,796	..	Tonquin	25,525	..
Guiana	7,970	1905	New Caledonia ..	7,807	1905
French Congo	920	..	French possessions in Oceania	5,773	..
Réunion	26,783	1906	Madagascar	25,804	..
Mayotte	256	1905	French West Africa ..	5,700	1906
Somali Coast	256	1905	Senegal	18,346	..
French possessions in India ..	11,200	1906	Upper Senegal and Niger ..	10,580	..
Indo-China—			French Guinea . .	7,360	..
Cambodia	7,942	..	Ivory Coast	1,628	..
Cochin China	45,453	..	Dahomey	3,585	..
Laos	1,384	..			

6. Selection of the staff of teachers, native and French.

In Madagascar native teachers are obliged to hold a certificate granted on their passing an examination in the Malgache and French languages, in arithmetic, in the metric system, in history, and geography. They have also to show a certain proficiency in one branch of manual labour. A vast tract of land is placed at their disposal, comprising a rice field, on which they make agricultural experiments for the instruction of their pupils.

A certificate on similar lines is required from native teachers in Indo-China.

In French West Africa the old "École des Otages," which became subsequently the "École des Fils de Chefs," and is now known as the "École Normale," has given satisfactory results.

The French teachers for the Colonies are recruited from the "École Jules Ferry," where they go through a very thorough course lasting ten months, including native languages, technical instruction and agriculture, and practical medicine.

Hygiene and medical aid.

Another question closely connected with the education and moral improvement of the natives, which has occupied the attention of the Colonial Administration during the last few years, is that of their physical well-being. As stated above, every effort is being made to introduce some idea of hygiene and a system of medical aid throughout the Colonies.

Madagascar.

In 1905 Madagascar possessed a medical school with native hospital annexed, a Pasteur Institute at Tananarivo, a vaccination establishment at Diego Suarez, a central pharmacy, 34 hospitals (1,962 beds), 43 medical posts or dispensaries, 40 lying-in homes or midwife posts, and 9 leper hospitals containing 3,150 lepers.

The sums set aside for medical assistance to the natives amounted in—

		£
1902	to	41,565
1903	,,	40,762
1904	,,	36,100
1905	,,	46,229

The births of native children have increased from 1,839 in 1900 to 3,083 in 1903.

Indo-China.

Cochin China.—Saigon possesses an orphanage, a municipal dispensary, and a hospital of 200 beds. At Cholon (the Chinese town), situated a few miles from Saigon, there is a large hospital, clinic, "crèche," dispensary, a hospital for old men, a school for blind children, and a lying-in home and school for midwives.

In the provinces 72 medical posts, including hospitals, lying-in homes, orphanages, &c., have been created.

Annam.—At Hue there is a hospital of 130 beds and a dispensary; at Vuih a hospital of 30 beds with dispensary; the same at Than Hoa. Further medical posts have been established in accordance with a Decree of June 1905.

In the remaining Colonies of Annam, Cambodia, Laos, and Tonquin much still remains to be done, although the Administration cannot be accused of supineness in this respect, as shown by the credits for medical aid, which have been increased from 30,890*l.* in 1902 to 77,270*l.* in 1906.

Cambodia.—A mixed hospital exists at Pnempen, and the Budget of 1906 has provided for the creation of nine new medical posts.

Laos.—Possesses four medical posts.

Tonquin.—Large hospitals exist at Hanoi, Haiphong, Nam Dinh, and Bac Ninh.

French West Africa.

By a Decree dated the 8th February, 1905, Governor-General Roume established a special service of medical assistance for natives. Moreover, a sum of 120,000*l.* has been set aside for this purpose in the recent loan of 4,000,000*l.* With this money it is intended to found a large native hospital of 150 beds at Dakar, and twenty native medical posts in the principal centres of population of the five Colonies.

The total estimated expenditure for medical assistance in the French Colonies of West Africa amounted in 1906 to 37,669*l.*, divided up as follows:—

	£
Senegal Protectorate	4,569
Upper Senegal and Niger	8,418
Military territories of the Niger	741
Guinea	9,600
Dahomey	8,321
Ivory Coast	6,020
	37,669

Congo.—The efforts of the Colonial Administration are directed to combating the two prevalent diseases, viz., sleeping sickness and small-pox. A special mission has for this purpose been sent to the country, consisting of two doctors of the colonial forces and two naturalists. They are to study specially the manner of transmission of the sleeping sickness and the habits of the tsetse-fly. They are also to create vaccination centres at various points on the Congo.

Efforts are being made to introduce into the French Colonies some form of establishments of "prévoyance sociale," such as savings banks, mutual-aid Societies, provision against old age and accidents, &c.

Savings banks exist in Guiana, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Réunion, Cochin China, and Caledonia, but in none of the other French Colonies. M. Clémentel, when Minister of the Colonies, called the special attention of the Governors of the three great Colonies of French West Africa, Indo-China, and Madagascar to the importance to be attached to questions of social economy, and instructed them to study the best means of establishing "caisses de prévoyance indigènes" modelled on those of Algeria, but so far his instructions have remained without result.

Colonial Defence.

Colonial Defence.

The question of the best means of guaranteeing the external and internal security of the Colonies has been very freely discussed during the last few years. In 1898, in a sudden moment of panic, Parliament voted a number of credits destined to secure the Colonies against a sudden attack. A naval programme was hurriedly drawn up, bases were selected all over the globe for receiving fleets which existed mainly on paper, troops and provisions of war were dispatched to them, and hundreds of millions of francs were expended with very little practical result.

M. Gervais, in his Report on behalf of the Budget Committee, examines the whole question, and arrives at the conclusion that the idea of defending the Colonies in the Colonies is fundamentally wrong; that their fate will be decided either in land battles in Europe or on the high seas, and will depend on the effectiveness of the French armies and fleets; that the feeble squadrons in colonial waters, composed chiefly of obsolete ships armed with antiquated guns, would be useless to resist the attack of a foreign fleet, and that no amount of money, however great, spent on fortifying and garrisoning the Colonies would enable them to resist an invasion by an enemy mistress of the sea.

At the same time, in the course of a war it might often prove necessary to dispatch a fleet to the Colonies, and for this purpose it is essential to create naval bases stocked with every possible requirement, and sufficiently strong to resist an attack pending the arrival of the home fleet. These naval bases would be used in time of peace for commercial purposes, and would be also valuable as a means of impressing the native populations with the power of France.

M. Gervais recommends the creation of three such naval bases—two in the first line, Dakar and Saigon (Cape St. James), and one in the second line, Diego Suarez. Arsenals and dockyards would be erected in each of them, which in time of peace would work for private industry as well as for the State, the cost of their upkeep being in this way almost entirely covered.

As regards the land forces, M. Gervais recommends that, as far as concerns external defence, they should be limited to the number required for the protection of the naval bases.

The only Colony, he says, in which the possibility of a foreign invasion need be seriously entertained is Indo-China, owing to its proximity to Japan, but here again all will depend on the mastery of the sea. So long as it remained with Japan no French force could prevent such a landing; once, however, the Japanese fleet was defeated, no Japanese army could maintain itself in Indo-China. Thus, he argues, it is absolutely useless to maintain large forces in Tonquin and Cochin China, and all that is really required is a force sufficient to garrison the naval base of Saigon.

At the present moment the colonial army amounts to 58,000 men, composed of 22,000 Europeans and 36,000 natives, stationed as follows:—

Antilles and Pacific	1,639 Europeans.		
West Africa	9,130, of whom 2,130 are Europeans.		
Indo-China—Annam and Tonquin	21,832 „	8,800	„
Cochin China	10,914 „	5,500	„
Madagascar and Réunion	12,961 „	4,100	„
Congo	1,680 „	194	„

This military force entails an expenditure of 3,769,350*l.*, 454,800*l.* of which are paid by the local Budgets; the burden imposed on the mother-country for the defence of the Colonies amounts, therefore, to more than 3,300,000*l.* M. Gervais is of opinion that large reductions should be made, the proceeds of which might be employed on public works, roads, railways, and canals; the natural resources of the country would thus be developed, and the prosperity of its inhabitants increased. By a wise policy of association the natives would be made to realize that their welfare was bound up with that of the mother-country, and in their own interest, if for no other reason, they would be more and more prepared to defend the French flag.

Apart from forming the garrisons of the naval bases, the rôle of the troops in the Colonies should, in M. Gervais' opinion, be reduced to the maintenance of internal order. These duties are now performed by local militias, but the system does not work well, and he recommends that they should be replaced by native troops with a staff of European officers. These troops would be grouped in companies and legions like the gendarmerie in France. They would be at the disposal of the Governors in the same way as the gendarmerie in France is at the disposal of the Préfets. They would be under the control of the Ministry of War as regards promotion, maintenance, and discipline, the necessary funds being provided by the local Budgets. Moreover, in each one of the important centres of the great Colonies a reserve of European troops would be formed, who would be employed in any grave emergency.

Public Works in the Principal French Colonies.

French West Africa.

By the Decrees of the 16th June, 1895, and the 17th October, 1899, the various French possessions in West Africa (Senegal, the French Soudan, French Guinea, the Ivory Coast, and Dahomey) were grouped under a Governor-General, who was to exercise the same military and political supervision over all alike. As a matter of fact, however, his authority only extended over Senegal and the French Soudan, the last three (French Guinea, the Ivory Coast, and Dahomey) remaining as regards administration and finance exclusively under the direction of the Home Government.

The necessity for giving cohesion to this vast domain made itself more and more strongly felt, and a new régime was established by the Decree of the 1st October, 1902.

The Governor-General in future was alone to have the right of correspondence with the Minister. He was to administer directly the territories of Senegambia and the Niger, and to have under his orders a Lieutenant-Governor at the head of each one of the Colonies of Senegal, French Guinea, the Ivory Coast, and Dahomey.

The first benefit of the concentration of the respective resources of these various Colonies was the contraction of the loan of 2,600,000*l.* in 1903, the bulk of which was employed on public works.

In 1904 a further step in advance was taken.

By a Decree dated the 18th October, a General Budget for the French possessions in West Africa was created on the lines of that of Indo-China. At the same time the vast territory of Senegambia and the Niger was organized as a Colony to be administered by a Lieutenant-Governor under the name of Upper Senegal and the Niger; and the regions inhabited by the Moors on the right bank of the Senegal were placed under a Commissioner of the Governor-General, and received the name of "Le Territoire Civil de Mauritanie," with the Budget forming an annex to the General Budget.

Public works in French West Africa may be divided up into those executed—

(*a.*) By means of loans;
(*b.*) At the expense of the General Budget;
(*c.*) At the expense of the local Budgets; and
(*d.*) At the expense of the State Budget.

A.—*Public Works Executed by Means of Loans.*

By a Law dated the 5th July, 1903, a credit amounting to 2,022,000*l.* was voted for public works, which were divided into three categories:—

	£
Sanitary works	218,000
Improvement of ports..	504,000
Opening-up of the country by means of railways, roads, &c.	1,300,000
Total	2,022,000

(1.) These sanitary works consisted mainly in the improvement of the sanitary condition of the three points of access to the Colony of Senegal, St. Louis, Dakar, and Rufisque, by means of the draining of marshes and the establishment of a system of drainage. Good progress has been made, and it is anticipated that the whole programme will have been carried out by the end of the year 1907:—

The following Table shows the financial situation;—

Nature of Works.	Date of Decrees authorizing the Works.	Estimate of Expenditure.	Total Expenditure up to 1904.	Credits assigned in 1905.	Credits assigned in 1906.	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£
Sanitary Works—						
Drainage at St. Louis ..	Dec. 24, 1903	218,000	..	600	1,200	1,800
Drainage of marshes at St. Louis			3,325	12,000	14,000	29,325
Drainage at Dakar ..			2,418	18,000	22,000	42,418
Drainage of marshes at Dakar			211	26,000	6,400	32,611
Drainage at Rufisque ..			..	..	400	400
Drainage of marshes at Rufisque			245	10,000	4,000	14,245
Total	..	218,000	6,199	66,600	48,000	120,799

(2.) *Improvement of Ports.*

FINANCIAL Statement respecting Works undertaken for improvement of Ports.

Nature of Works.	Credit voted by the Law of July 5, 1905.	Dates of Decrees authorizing the Works.	Estimated Expenditure.	Total Expenditure up to 1904.	Credits assigned in 1905.	Credits assigned in 1906.	Total.
	£		£	£	£	£	£
Quays at St. Louis	84,000	July 3, 1904	84,000	513	8,000	1,000	9,513
Port of Dakar .	400,000	Dec. 24, 1903	334,000	2,053	72,232	55,845	130,130
Port of Rufisque..	20,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	504,000	..	418,000	2,566	80,232	56,845	139,643

At St. Louis over 500 yards of quay have been restored and finished, and a contract is in negotiation for the construction of about 1,200 yards of quay in deep water.

The commercial port of Dakar comprises quays in deep water forming two breakwaters of over 300 yards in length. The greater part of the works has been completed, the expenditure anticipated at the end of 1906 amounting to about 160,000*l.*

At Rufisque a sum of 20,000*l.* has been set aside for the construction of a new wharf and the restoration of various harbour works already existing.

(3.) Opening up of lines of penetration.

FINANCIAL Statement with regard to Works in course of execution.

Nature of Works.	Expenditure authorized by Law.	Dates of the Decrees authorizing the Works.	Estimated Expenditure.	Total Expenditure up to 1904.	Credits assigned in 1905.	Credits assigned in 1906.
	£		£	£	£	£
Railway from Thiès to Kayes	..	..	20,000	6,976	..	4,000
Improvement of the Senegal River	..	..	..	10,476	12,800	4,400
Improvement of the Niger River	..	..	..	13,941	8,000	1,800
Guinea Railway	680,000	Dec. 24, 1903	34,000	..	..	..
		July 8, 1904	646,000	98,248	289,000	40,000
Ivory Coast Railway and Port	400,000	Nov. 6, 1903	279,000	..	..	..
		Dec. 23, 1905	88,000	109,376	200,000	80,000
Total	1,080,000	..	1,067,000	239,017	500,800	130,200

The proposal to construct a railway from a point on the Dakar–St. Louis line to join the Soudan Railway at Kayes is the result of studies made by the Belle Mission in 1903. Its length would be 670 kilom. (415 miles), and the cost of its construction is estimated at about 2,000,000*l.*

The line would start from Thiès and run eastwards across the fertile land of Baol; it would then turn towards the south-east, skirting the desert of Ferlo; crossing the Valley of Saloum it would reach the basin of the Gambia, and thence run north-eastwards, cross the line of the watershed, and enter the basin of the Senegal, following the river as far as Kayes.

It is expected that the necessary funds for the commencement of the works will be set aside from the loan of 4,000,000*l.* to be raised for the Government General of West Africa, and that work will be begun in 1907.

Good progress is being made with the construction of the Guinea Railway. The first section, 148 kilom. 500 m. (91 miles) in length, was open to traffic by a Decree of the 1st June, 1904. It was subsequently extended to Kindia, a further distance of 153 kilom. (95 miles), and has now reached Sonqueta, 220 kilom. (135 miles). The results are satisfactory, although the line has not as yet reached the districts for which it was built. In 1905 the kilometric receipts amounted to 210*l.* 8*s.*, the expenditure having only amounted to 173*l.* 16*s.*

Of the second section from Kindia to the Pass of Kouni—305 kilom. (186 miles) —58 kilom. (35 miles) have been built.

A sum of 10,000,000 fr. has been voted for works in the Ivory Coast, comprising the construction of a railway line starting from the southern shore of the lagoons and penetrating the equatorial forests, and the creation of a port at Abidjan, the terminus of the railway. The first section runs from Abidjan to Ery Maconghié, a distance of 80 kilom. (49 miles). The works were commenced at the beginning of 1904.

The proposed line of the second section, from Ery Maconghié to the M'zi, has been approved by the Committee of Public Works of the Colonies. Great difficulties have been encountered in connection with the question of opening a communication between the lagoons and the sea, arising mainly from the fact that at the point where the cutting was made the action of the sand is most powerful and continually fills up the cutting. The matter has been studied with the greatest care, and it is hoped that the difficulty may very shortly be overcome. The line is actually open to traffic for a distance of 85 kilom. (52 miles) as far as the bridge of Agba; the rails are laid down for a distance of 105 kilom. (65 miles), and it is hoped that 160 kilom. (100 miles) will have been constructed by the end of 1908.

Dahomey Railway Line.

The Dahomey Railway is open to traffic as far as Paonignan, a distance of 194 kilom. (121 miles).

By a Decree of the 26th June, 1900, the Concession for the construction and exploitation of the railway between Kotonou and Tchaourou, with branch line to Ouidah, and a preferential right for 25 years for the Concession of the prolongation of the line from Tchaourou to the Niger was granted to M. G. Borelli for 75 years.

In accordance with Article 6 of the above-named Decree, M. Borelli was subsequently replaced by a Company, known as the "Compagnie Française de Chemins de Fer au Dahomey," which was formally recognized by a Ministerial Decree dated the 7th June, 1901.

Work was begun at the end of 1900, and 102 kilom. (63 miles) were opened to traffic at the end of 1902. But the tariffs imposed by the Company were so exaggerated that the results obtained were far from satisfactory. Serious difficulties, moreover, arose in connection with the execution of various clauses of the contract, and by common consent the régime was modified.

On the 29th August, 1904, a further Convention was signed by the Company and the Colony, by virtue of which the Company merely held the Concession for the working of the railway on behalf of the Colony, the latter retaining full power in the matter of fixing the tariffs.

The working of the railway under the new conditions began on the 1st September, 1904, but the results were not very much more satisfactory. The average receipt per kilometre during the first eight months of 1904 had been 62*l.* 4*s.*, and it was not till the month of April 1905 that an improvement was perceptible, and the average receipt per kilometre from the 1st January to the 14th July, 1905, worked out at 114*l.* 17*s.* The average fell again, however, owing to the opening of the Toffo-Dan section of the line, 155 kilom. (96 miles), on which there is no commercial traffic. The Colony, whilst receiving the profits, has to pay its share of the working expenses, amounting in the first six months to 3,947*l.*, but it is hoped that there will be a steady increase of commercial traffic, which will gradually reduce the burden imposed on the Colony by its contract with the concessionary Company.

Railway Lines open to Traffic.

At the present moment there exist in the French possessions in West Africa two lines of railway completely open to traffic, viz., the line from Dakar to St. Louis (Senegal) and the line from Kayes to the Niger.

Railway Line from Dakar to St. Louis.

The Concession for the railway from Dakar to St. Louis was granted to a Company by a Convention dated the 30th October, 1880, which was sanctioned by a Law dated

the 29th June, 1882. The gauge is 1 metre (3·28 feet). The line is about 264 kilom. (164 miles) in length, and was opened to traffic in 1884–5.

The original Convention of Concession stipulated for a guarantee of interest of 46*l.* per kilometre (3,282 feet) in favour of the Company. The State further advanced to the Company a sum of 507,200*l.* for the execution of the original works.

The line was worked on these lines till the year 1891, when the arrangement was considerably modified. Finally, on the 21st November, 1900, a further Convention was signed between the Minister and the Company, readjusting the whole position. A new scale corresponding better with the actual conditions was agreed upon, and the constitution of a new reserve fund was authorized. It was further arranged that in future the expenditure for complementary works remaining to be executed should be charged not to the reserve fund, but to the credits annually inscribed in the Budget under the heading of loans made by the State to the Company.

This Convention changed the whole face of affairs, and from the first year of its application the clause relative to the guarantee of interest ceased to operate, and the Company repaid a sum of 1,709*l.* to the State. This state of affairs has continued ever since.

The following Table shows the sums repaid by the Company since 1900 :—

Years.	Sums placed in the Reserve Fund	Sums repaid by the Company.
	£	£
1900	2,894	1,709
1901	8,137	11,824
1902	3,442	3,402
1903	3,030	10,939
1904	3,529	9,910
1905	1,399	7,000
	22,431	44,784

On the one hand, the development of the traffic, mainly due to the very considerable increase in the production of oil seeds in the region of Cayor, and, on the other hand, the application of a reasonable working formula, which encourages the Company to increase its net receipts by the adoption of special tariffs favourable to commerce, and by the improvement of the working conditions have completely transformed the Dakar–St. Louis Railway, which has become not only a powerful instrument for the economic development of Senegal, but also an appreciable source of profit both direct and indirect for the State.

The following Table shows the receipts in detail of the line since the year 1886 :—

Year.	Traffic Receipts.									Other Receipts.	Total Receipts.	Total Receipt per kilom.
	Express Service.					Goods Service						
	Passengers.	Luggage.	Parcels.	Total.	Per kilom.	Arachides.	Various.	Total.	Per kilom.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1886	16,665	1,023	1,757	19,435	74	4,197	4,626	8,823	33	22	28,803	107
1887	19,155	1,161	2,521	22,837	86	4,062	4,712	8,774	33	84	31,695	119
1888	22,203	1,335	2,614	26,152	99	9,333	9,126	18,459	70	137	44,748	169
1889	19,341	1,179	1,842	22,362	85	9,209	7,044	16,251	62	119	38,732	147
1890	18,273	1,012	2,458	21,743	82	7,481	6,783	14,264	54	117	36,124	134
1891	19,075	968	2,042	22,085	84	9,526	6,211	15,737	60	111	37,933	144
1892	27,302	1,326	1,972	27,999	106	15,921	8,711	24,632	93	157	52,788	199
1893	27,302	1,176	1,904	30,382	115	18,769	9,508	28,277	107	220	58,879	222
1894	25,073	1,182	2,448	28,703	109	19,928	11,777	31,705	120	123	60,531	229
1895	20,941	1,070	2,196	24,207	92	14,891	7,048	21,939	83	1,674	47,820	175
1896	20,061	948	2,602	23,611	89	17,614	7,493	25,107	95	455	49,173	184
1897	20,306	834	3,165	24,305	91	16,259	9,613	25,872	98	2,988	52,365	189
1898	25,807	1,038	3,667	30,512	116	22,777	14,318	37,095	140	3,414	71,021	256
1899	27,334	1,018	4,223	32,575	123	25,578	19,201	44,779	170	4,743	82,097	293
1900	24,102	882	3,545	28,529	108	39,766	13,235	53,001	201	3,721	85,251	309
1901	39,874	2,174	4,232	46,280	175	42,618	35,302	77,910	295	3,024	127,214	473
1902	39,320	1,867	3,536	44,723	169	21,744	31,221	52,965	201	3,054	100,742	370
1903	39,681	2,208	3,346	45,235	171	32,280	27,578	59,858	227	3,021	108,114	398
1904	35,136	1,820	3,053	40,009	152	29,294	23,010	52,304	198	6,608	78,921	350
1905	32,704	1,870	2,829	37,403	142	..	..	51,726	196	3,098	92,227	338

Railway Line from Kayes to the Niger (Soudan Railway)

This railway, which connects the Niger with that portion of the River Senegal which is navigable during the floods, was begun in 1881 by means of credits inscribed in the home Budget. By the year 1898, owing to a series of vicissitudes of various kinds, only 168 kilom. (103 miles) had been built. The matter was taken seriously in hand, and after a thorough investigation it was ascertained that a sum of 1,202,280*l.* would be necessary to complete the railway as far as Koulikoro, a distance of 550 kilom. (341 miles). A Convention, approved by the Finance Law of the 13th April, 1898, was signed by the State and the Colony of the Soudan, according to which they were each to furnish a sum of 20,000*l.* during twenty-four years. By means of this annuity of 40,000*l.*, a loan of 654,793*l.* was raised, and the work was rapidly pushed forward. The resources, however, were exhausted at the end of 1901, and a further yearly allowance of 33,360*l.* for twenty-four years was found necessary to be, as before, shared by the State and the Colony. The latter voted its contribution, but the former paid its share by means of loans.

The railway reached Koulikoro in the month of November 1904, and has been open to traffic ever since that date.

The results hitherto obtained justify the hope that the line has a brilliant future before it, especially if the scheme for uniting it with the Dakar–St. Louis Railway by means of a line from Thiès to Kayes be realized at no remote date.

The following Tables show the progress of the receipts of the railway and the expenditure :—

PARTIAL and Total Receipts from 1894 to 1906 inclusive.

Year.	Number of miles worked.	Receipts.				
		From State and Colonial Traffic.	From Commerce.	Various.	Total.	Per kilom.
		£	£	£	£	£
1894..	102	7,636	3,139	964	11,739	71
1895..	102	6,658	3,750	1,362	11,770	71
1896..	102	3,974	3,965	4,054	11,993	74
1897..	100	8,834	3,634	3,170	13,638	85
1898..	100	8,425	5,761	722	14,908	93
1899..	121	9,922	9,505	1,238	20,665	106
1900..	149	8,276	10,356	455	19,087	79
1901..	174	6,065	8,565	1,157	15,787	56
1902..	198	12,108	16,658	1,519	30,285	98
1903..	210	15,559	26,865	1,976	44,400	131
1904..	293	21,621	56,028	1,314	78,963	167
1905..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1906 (six months)	343	..	..	..	..	..

TOTAL Receipts and Expenditure of the Soudan Railway from 1899 to 1905.

Year.	Total Expenditure.	Total Receipts.	Cost of Working.
	£	£	Per cent.
1899	16,492	20,627	0·80
1900	33,984	19,539	1·74
1901	21,764	15,625	1·39
1902	28,589	30,285	0·94
1903	31,992	44,400	0·72
1904	56,304	78,962	0·71
1905	..	..	..

Year.	Number of Trains of all categories.	Total Working Expenditure.	Expenditure of each Service.		
			Administration.	Working Traction and Material.	Line and Buildings.
		£	£	£	£
1899.. ..	169,092	16,492	..	10,531	5,963
1900.. ..	248,920	33,984	..	..	..
1901.. ..	156,408	13,804	..	11,196	10,567
1902.. ..	310,378	35,589	..	16,982	11,627
1903.. ..	481,726	31,994	..	22,101	9,890
1904.. ..	881,446	56,303	..	14,600	17,703
1905.. ..	..	..	..	..	..

The total expenditure does not include the general administration expenses.

The question of the improvement of the Rivers Senegal and Niger has been very carefully studied by Hydrographic and Topographical Missions organized by Decree of the Governor-General in 1903. The results obtained by these two Missions are already very considerable.

As regards the Senegal, soundings have been taken of the depth of the whole portion of the river from Kayes to St. Louis, a distance of about 900 kilom. (560 miles). The result of these soundings, which are very detailed, are in course of publication, and are expected to appear in the month of July 1907. Maps of the two reaches of Bakel Kayes and Bakel Kayesdi have already been published.

In addition to the study of the navigability of the river, the Mission erected light-houses on the banks and stone towers on the dangerous rocks, which have been kept up and added to by the Public Works authorities of Senegal.

The object of the Topographical Mission, commanded by Captain Mathy, was to define the profile (in length) of the river between St. Louis and Kayes, showing the chief heights and the level of the water.

In the year 1905 it studied the beds of rock, which are frequent in that portion of the river, and measured the amount of water in the dry season.

The results obtained by the Niger Hydrographic Mission are also very important. Means of communication on the reach from Koulokoro to Ansongo have been greatly improved, and a regular service has been established between Koulikoro, the terminus of the Kayes–Niger Railway, and Timbuctoo, which facilitates the food supply of the latter place.

The expenditure on the various works indicated above will amount to something under 80,000*l.* at the end of 1906 on a total of 220,000*l.* set aside for the purpose in the loan of 2,600,000*l.*, but much still remains to be done.

The question of regulating the bar at the entrance of the River Senegal formed the subject of serious study in 1904 and 1905, and the Committee of Public Works of the Colonies adopted the principle of a system similar to that adopted in France in 1894 on the coast of La Vendée. The main difficulty is the complete absence of building materials in a considerable area, which might make the work very expensive.

A system of buoys has already facilitated the navigation of the Senegal at the time of the high and medium water. When the water is low it has been shown that artificial barrages should be built above Kayes, by means of which reservoirs could be made, which would make up for the insufficiency of the water in the dry season.

The following Table shows the sums expended in public works at Dakar since 1903 by the various Budgets :—

	£	
State Budget	..	Military works for defence and for military port.
Budget for Governor-General	134,000	Public buildings, strategic roads, &c.
Local Budget	12,000	Buildings, water, and roads.
Loans	240,000	Commercial port and hygienic works.
Communal Budget	20,000	Roads.
Total	406,000	

(B.) *Public works executed at the expense of the General Budget.*

As stated above, the General Budget for the French possessions in West Africa was created by a Decree dated the 18th October, 1904, and provides for the expenditure of the various Colonies forming the group.

The items of expenditure for the Estimates of the year 1906 comprised the completion of the new law courts at Dakar, which were begun in 1905, the completion of the Governor-General's palace, the purchase of a residence for the Procureur-Général, and custom-house buildings in various Colonies.

A sum of 16,000*l.* has been set aside for the construction of strategic roads at Dakar; a lighthouse has been built on the Los Islands, and lights have been erected at various points on the Ivory Coast.

Considerable credits have been assigned to the continuation of the Dahomey Railway and to the construction of the Porto Novo–Raketé tramway, which is now almost finished.

(C.) *Public works executed at the expense of the Local Budgets.*

These consisted in 1906 mainly of works of upkeep.

(D.) *Public works executed at the expense of the State Budget.*

The only works under this heading in addition to the construction of the military port at Dakar, and the military defence works, were those of the original works ("travaux de premier établissement") on the Dakar–St. Louis Railway, which in 1906 were of very minor importance.

INDO-CHINA.

Since the year 1896, thanks to the loan of 3,200,000*l.* contracted by Annam and Tonquin, great progress has been made with public works in Indo-China. The programme of the railways to be constructed was approved by the Law of the 25th December, 1898. Important works have been executed in the ports, and the number of roads has been largely increased.

By a system of dredging the navigation of the rivers, canals, and lakes of Cochin China and Cambodia has been greatly facilitated, and lights have been established along the coasts of the various Colonies.

One of the principal problems to be solved in Indo-China is that of irrigation. After a profound study of the question a programme of irrigation has been drawn up for Tonquin, Annam, Cochin China, and Cambodia, the execution of which would entail an expenditure of about 3,600,000*l.*

In the meanwhile various works of irrigation were executed in the year 1905 in the plains of Kep–Voi, Bao–Loc, the Pines, and Phu Lang Thuong. A barrage has been erected on the Song Thuong at Can–Son, and various canals and dykes have been constructed, the cost being met by the residue of the loan of 3,200,000*l.*

Other hydraulic works have been erected in the Provinces of Phuc–Yen, Bac Ninh, Ninh Binh, and Nam Dinh, the cost of which has been defrayed by the local Budget of Tonquin.

The question of drainage has also been seriously studied.

In Cambodia the question of the irrigation of large tracts of land by means of the waters of the Stung Chinit and the Kampong Thom, which would be stored during the rainy season, has been considered, and is expected to give good results.

In Tonquin special attention has been paid to the question of protecting from inundation the regions traversed by the great rivers. A Committee, known as the Tonquin Dyke Committee, was formed by a Decree of the 31st August, 1905, and on its recommendation considerable works have been undertaken to improve reservoirs, to create platforms, to improve the bed of the Red River, and to restore the dykes of Co-Lien and Kun Sou, which were seriously damaged by the inundations which took place in the month of September 1905.

The question of creating means of communications in Laos has occupied the attention of the colonial authorities during the last few years. The importance of the River Mekong as a commercial artery has been fully recognized, and also the necessity of connecting it by a carriage road with Annam pending the construction of a railway.

It is also essential to improve the navigability of the Mekong, and thus connect the Province of Yünnan and a portion of Burmah with the port of Saigon on the one hand, and by road or railway to connect Saigon with Hanoi and Haïphong. A series of engineering experiments which have been undertaken of late have proved beyond a doubt that steam navigation is possible without transhipment during at least six months of the year between Kong and Xieng Sen on the frontier of Burmah, a distance of 1,670 kilom. (1,045 miles), and with transhipment during the whole year.

Railways are being constructed along the rapids of Sambor, Khone, and Kemmarat. Works for removing rocks have been created at various points; the most dangerous channels have been provided with buoys.

When all these works have been completed the Mekong will be navigable for some 2,500 kilom. (1,560 miles) during the greater part of the year, a remarkable result when one remembers that up till quite lately navigation was considered impossible above Khone, and all works undertaken with that object were considered as money thrown away.

We will now examine briefly the situation of the various railways, the construction of which was included in the programme authorized by the Law of the 25th December, 1898.

The railways to be constructed by means of the loan of 8,000,000*l.* included :—

(1.) The line from Haïphong to Hanoi and Loakay.
(2.) The line from Hanoi to Nam Dinh and Vinh.
(3.) The line from Tourane to Hué and Quang-tri.
(4.) The line from Saigon to the Kan Hoa and to the Langbian.
(5.) The line from Mytho to Cantho.

(1.)—*The Line from Haïphong to Loakay.*

This line, 383 kilom. (239 miles) in length, was built by the Colony. The Concession working it was granted to the French Company of the Indo-China and Yünnan Railways by a Convention dated the 15th June, 1901. The different sections of the line were opened to traffic at the following dates :—

Haïphong to Hanoi, 93 kilom. 600 m. (59 miles), the 11th August, 1902.
Hanoi–Vietri, 64 kilom. 622 m. (39 miles), the 15th December, 1903.
Vietri–Yenbay, 82 kilom. (49 miles), the 1st May, 1904.
Yenbay–Laokay, 141 kilom. (87 miles), the 1st February, 1906.

The total cost of the line when all the final works have been completed is estimated at 2,004,000*l.*

The working of the line has up till now given the following results :—

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
From April 1 to December 31, 1903 ..	23,770	20,380
1904..	65,822	57,880
1905..	85,417	73,799
1906 (first 6 months)	73,812	51,222

(2.)—*Line from Hanoi to Vinh, 326 kilom. (202 miles).*

The various sections of this line were opened to traffic at the following dates :—

Hanoi to Ninh Binh, 125 kilom. (77 miles), the 9th January, 1903.
Hanoi to Namrong, 248 kilom. (153 miles), the 20th December, 1904.
Hanoi to Vinh Ben Thuy, 326 kilom. (202 miles), the 7th March, 1905.

The total cost of construction is estimated at 1,290,000*l.*

The results were very good up till the middle of September 1905, when considerable damage was caused by floods, and all traffic was interrupted until the month of November. The necessary repairs entailed considerable expenditure, and the profits of the line suffered accordingly.

(3.)—*Line from Tourane to Hué and Quang-Tri.*

This line is divided into two sections. The building of the first from Tourane to Hué, 104½ kilom. (65 miles), was authorized by a Decree dated the 25th March, 1901. That of the second part, 67 kilom. 600 m. (38 miles), by a Decree dated the 27th January, 1905. Work is being carried on with great rapidity on both sections.

(4.)—*Line from Saigon to Khan-Hoa.*

This line is 425 kilom. (264 miles) in length, and is divided into the following sections :—

	Kilom.	Miles.
(*a.*) Saigon to kilom. 132	132	82
(*b.*) Kilom. 132 to Muong Man and Phan Tiet ..	56	34
(*c.*) Muong Man to Song Luys	45	28
(*d.*) Song Luys to Phanrang	98	61
(*e.*) Phanrang to Khan Hao	93	57
	424	262

The whole of the first section was opened to traffic at the end of 1906.

On the other sections of the line the work is being got on with as quickly as possible, but considerable difficulty has been encountered in the matter of obtaining labour.

Branch Line of the Plateau of Langbian.

This branch line starts at Phanrang, and is destined to serve the Plateau of Langbian, on which it is proposed to create sanitary stations. It will be 104 kilom. (64 miles) long, and is divided into three sections :—

	Kilom.	Miles.
(1.) From Phanrang to Xomgom	38	24
(2.) From Xomgom to Danhim	18	11
(3.) From Danhim to Dalat	48	29

The cost of the first section is estimated at 63,400*l.* The line to be followed by the two latter has not yet been finally decided.

(5.)—*Line from Mytho to Cantho.*

The scheme for this line has been prepared.

Of the loan of 8,000,000*l.*, 5,203,876*l.* have already been expended, leaving a sum of 2,796,124*l.* still in hand. Of the 3,142 kilom. (1,955 miles) of railway constituting the railway system of Indo-China, 1,888 kilom. (737 miles) were actually open to traffic at the end of 1906.

YÜNNAN LINE.

The construction of this line, 470 kilom. (292 miles) in length, was intrusted to the French Company of the railways of Indo-China and Yünnan by a Convention approved by the Law of the 5th July, 1901. Work was begun about the middle of 1903, and from the first serious difficulties were encountered, the chief of which was the impossibility of obtaining labour. The disturbances which took place in the country in 1903 further delayed the work. At the beginning of 1906 the concessionary Company declared that it was unable to continue the work with the resources at its

disposal, and by a Law dated the 13th April of that year Parliament authorized the Minister of the Colonies to take the steps which he might consider necessary to meet the circumstances. A Committee, composed of members of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of the Colonies, and of Finance, was formed on the 16th May to study the question. They elected a Sub-Committee, consisting of two engineers, a financial inspector, and a colonial inspector, who were to examine the actual state of affairs on the spot.

This Sub-Committee started for Yünnan on the 28th October, 1906.

The Yünnan Railway will be eventually joined up with the line in course of construction in Chinese territory, which will be a prolongation of the Haïphong–Laokay Railway.

In addition to the lines actually in the course of construction in Indo-China, the colonial authorities have studied the question of the construction of various other railways, such as a line from Khan Hoa to Binh Dinh, one from Binh Dinh to Tourane, one from Vinh to Botrach and Quang-Tri, and finally lines of penetration to the Mekong; but for the moment it does not seem probable that these schemes will be realized, the attention of the Government being at this moment occupied by public works of a different nature no less necessary for the development of the Colony.

Madagascar.

The situation in Madagascar in respect of public works cannot be considered as satisfactory.

The works which have been executed by means of funds placed at the disposal of the Government of Madagascar by Laws dated the 14th April, 1904, and the 19th March, 1905, have seriously compromised the financial situation of the Colony. In addition to the annual charge imposed upon the local Budget by the above-mentioned loans, the Colony has had to support the extra charges entailed by the natural development of the various local services. Moreover, the resources which were counted upon to meet the new expenses have not increased *pari passu*. All this requires the most careful study, and will probably necessitate considerable measures of retrenchment.

The following Table shows the situation :—

Nature of Works.	1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Budget.	Closed Account.	Budget.	Closed Account.	Budget.	Closed Account.	Budget.	Closed Account.	Budget.	Closed Account.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Various works ..	209,223	233,649	213,875	178,752	166,070	119,300	152,649	..	147,593	..
Ports, roads, and lighthouses	21,998	13,312	16,811	13,710	9,022	8,059	5,284	..	5,824	..
Total ..	231,221	246,961	230,686	192,462	175,092	127,359	157,933	..	153,417	..
Expenditure of Colonial Budget	880,148		940,280		952,200		963,673		..	

M. Saint-Germain, in discussing the matter, inclines to the opinion that the unsatisfactory situation is to be ascribed mainly to the fact that public works are undertaken without previous elaboration of a plan of campaign, and he insists on the necessity of all schemes being in future submitted to the technical authorities of the Colonial Department.

Various works included in the programmes of the loans of the 14th April, 1904, and the 19th March, 1905.

The expenditure engaged under these loans is divided up as follows :—

	£
Railway	2,520,000
Lighthouses and lights	94,000
Roads	200,000
Municipal buildings, &c.	100,000
Telegraphs	78,000

Railway.

The line of railway is divided into two sections, the first, from Brikaville to the Mangoro, a distance of 165 kilom. (103 miles), has been open to traffic as far as Maramanga, 149 kilom. (93 miles), since the 1st January, 1906. The second section, from Mangoro to Tananarivo, a distance of 104 kilom. (65 miles), has been divided into four parts, the first three of which were put up to public tender. The work is being carried on vigorously by a staff of about 2,000 workmen.

On the 30th November, 1906, the financial situation of the railway was as follows :—

	£.	s.	d.
Approved expenditure	2,078,607	0	0
Extra expenditure	0	10	0
Advances made to overseers not as yet authorized ..	4,051	0	0
Expenditure engaged in France	47,556	0	0
Expenditure engaged in the Colony	93,988	0	0
	2,224,202	10	0

The expenditure authorized for the two sections amounts for the first to 1,856,000*l.*, of which 5,320*l.* still remain to be spent; for the second to 664,000*l.* Of this latter sum 307,291*l.* had been spent on the 30th June, 1906.

The line has been opened section by section from Brikaville to a point at 30 kilom. (19 miles) distant on the 15th October, 1902; from that point to Famavana, 102 kilom. (63 miles), on the 15th November, 1904; from Famavana to Maramanga, 149 kilom. (93 miles), on the 1st January, 1906.

The following Table shows the results of the working of the line :—

Line from Tananarivo to the East Coast.

Year.	Length open to Traffic.	Number of Passengers.		Tons of Goods.*		Distance covered by Trains during the Year.		Distance covered by Carriages during the whole Year.		Distance covered by Engines during the whole Year.	Number of Engines employed during the whole Year.	Receipts.			Total Expenses of Working.	Net Total of Produce of Working.
		All Distances.	In the proportion of a kilometre.	For all distances.	Calculated at 1 kilometre's distance.	Passengers and various.	Goods.	Passenger Carriages.	Goods Waggons.			Passengers.	Goods.	Total.		
	Miles.					Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.		£	£	£	£	£
1904	64 (November and December)	3,680	197,903	1,197,300	119,708	4,467	28,570	8,449	21,195	7,533	106	620	2,244	2,864	2,300	564
1905	64 (first six months)	3,816	..	..	..	..	..	21,271	..	..	..	827	2,383	3,210	..	..
1906	93 (second six months)	9,324	720,658	9,525	1,224,246	9,858	60,240	21,271	187,606	70,099	5	3,433	17,337	20,770	12,423	8,709

* The total weight of cattle, &c., carried is included in these columns.

Lighthouses and Buoys.

The credit of 94,000*l.* has been exhausted.

In 1894 Madagascar only possessed three lights established at Nossi-Bé and Diego Suarez.

In 1897 a programme was drawn up in the Ministry of Colonies providing for the creation of a lighthouse at Cape d'Ambre, and the lighting of the three principal ports, viz., Tamatave, Majunga, and Diego Suarez.

The following are the lights which actually exist :—

In the Bay of Majunga	Lighthouse of Katsépé. „ at Point Anorombato. „ at Pointe de Sable. Light on the wharf.
From Majunga to Cap d'Ambre	Lighthouse at Tany Kely. „ at Nossy Ville. „ at Helle Ville.
Cap d'Ambre	„ of Cap d'Ambre.
Bay of Diego	„ at Cape Miné. „ at the Mole. „ on the Jlot des Aigrettes. „ of Cap Est. Light on Pier of Antsirane.
Ile Sainte-Marie	Lighthouse at Blevec Reef „ at Port of Sainte-Marie. „ at Point Albraud. „ at Point Tanio.
Port of Tamatave	Light at Point Astré. „ at wharf. „ at Tête Amiot. „ at Balise Amiot.
Fort Dauphin	South Point Light. Pontoon Light.

Lights and lighthouses are also to be established on the west coast from Majunga to Cape d'Ambre at Analalava, Nosy Iranja, Tany Kely, and Nossy Soy, the three former being in 1906 at the point of completion.

Roads.

The credit of 200,000*l.* is exhausted, and M. Saint-Germain expresses the opinion that, whenever the funds of the Colony permit it, special efforts should be made to extend very largely the road system.

Municipal Works.

Of the credit voted for this purpose only 6,000*l.* remain, which are to be expended on the water supply of Tamatave.

Telegraphs.

At the end of 1904 the expenditure on the establishment of telegraph lines amounted to 94,740*l.* The credit of 78,000*l.* set aside for the purpose in the loan has consequently been exceeded, and the surplus expenditure has had to be borne by the local Budget. 5,000 kilom. (3,112 miles) of telegraph lines have been constructed, and also two telephone lines, one at Tananarivo of 44 kilom. (27 miles), and one at Tamatave of 16 kilom. (10 miles).

The lack of funds has greatly hampered the execution of a number of public works. The expenditure entailed by the construction of the railway has already considerably exceeded the estimates. Schemes for the improvement of the navigation of the chain of lakes which runs from Andevorante along a considerable portion of the east coast have been temporarily abandoned for want of money.

An improved system of irrigation in the districts of Emyrna and Bézilee would greatly assist the cultivation of rice, and sanitary works for draining marshes and bringing large tracts of land into cultivation which are now hotbeds of malaria are sorely needed. Money is required for the maintenance of the dykes constructed to preserve the rice fields from inundation, and the installation of the ports by no means

suffices for the daily increasing needs of international commerce. Diego Suarez alone, thanks to its exceptional situation, offers a refuge to large vessels, but it is practically cut off from all communication with the interior; the other two ports of Majunga and Tamatave are nothing more than open roadsteads.

French Guiana.

French Guiana is the largest of the old French Colonies, and perhaps the richest in natural resources. Its forests abound in rubber balatta, oleaginous fruits, and precious woods; the soil is very fertile, and large deposits of gold exist in the interior, which have already yielded some 16,000,000*l.* worth of gold. Unfortunately these resources have been so far absolutely neglected. Not a single road worthy of the name exists throughout the length and breadth of the Colony. The waterways are equally defective. The roadstead of Cayenne is blocked with mud, the port is quite insufficient, and the gold deposits have only been worked in the most superficial manner.

This lamentable state of affairs has continually been proclaimed, and elaborate programmes have been drawn up, but the precarious condition of the finances of the Colony and the want of unity between the Assembly and the Administration has hitherto stopped their execution.

Energetic measures have been taken during the last few years to cut down the permanent expenditure of the local services; considerable economies have been realized, and the receipts are, moreover, on the upward grade. In view of this more satisfactory state of affairs, the Governor submitted to the "Conseil Général" on the 23rd July, 1905, the following programme of public works:—

	£
Construction of a wharf at Cayenne and improvement of the roadstead and the quays	80,000
Completion of the colonial road from Cayenne to Maroni, and of the road from Koura to Kaw	60,000
Exploration works for building a railway into the interior	40,000
Conveyance of the water supply from Beauregard and Remire to Cayenne	40,000
	220,000

Already, in 1901, a scheme for a railway destined to serve the gold mines situated in the interior of the Colony was elaborated, but it was never put into execution, and no serious steps were taken until the month of July 1905, when a Mission, composed of a Captain of Engineers, with officers and non-commissioned officers, was sent to the Colony to study the question of the line to be adopted. The construction of the railway is rendered all the more urgent by the fact that the Colony of Dutch Guiana has commenced to build a line, the terminus of which will be at a point at no great distance from the principal gold mines of the French Colony, which are situated near the frontier. To reach them from Cayenne entails a difficult and expensive journey of two or three weeks through the forest, whereas the railway journey from Paramaribo will only last two or three days. The result will be that it will be most difficult to prevent the smuggling of gold, and the transit trade, by means of which Cayenne lives, will be deflected to Paramaribo.

Considerable sums of money have already been spent on the improvement of the water supply of Cayenne, but it is still insufficient for the needs of the town. According to the proposal of the Governor for bringing the water of Beauregard and Remire to Cayenne, which has been accepted by the "Conseil Général," 400 cubic metres (14,120 cubic feet) of drinking water will be added to the present supply of 2,000 cubic metres (70,600 cubic feet).

The expenditure entailed by the above programme could not be met by the ordinary resources of the local Budget of the Colony, and it will be necessary to have recourse to a loan, but the financial situation of the Colony appears sufficiently good to permit of its finding the yearly annuity necessary for the interest.

Guiana has been a convict settlement since the year 1852. With a view to obtaining the full benefit of the convict labour at the disposal of the Colony, a Law was passed in 1854, the second Article of which laid down that the convicts were to be employed in the most arduous labours of colonization, and in all other works of public utility. Unfortunately, the penitentiary authorities seemed to have completely ignored the great force at their disposal for the benefit of the Colony. The number of the convicts in French Guiana varies from 2,900 to 4,000 men, and the result of their work during five years amounts to the upkeep of the buildings, &c., of the convict settlement,

the construction of about 50 kilom. (31 miles) of roads, and the construction of a little Decauville railway, 16 kilom. (10 miles), in length, for the use of the Administration, which is of no economic utility whatever. In his Report, M. Gervais severely criticizes the action of the penitentiary authorities, and expresses the hope that the system may be changed.

Guadeloupe.

The finances of the Colony are in a state of chaos, and public works are practically non-existent, notwithstanding the considerable sums of money which have been yearly affected to their execution and maintenance.

The cost of the upkeep of the various roads which exist in the island works out at about 40*l.* per kilometre (1,094 yards), whereas in France it amounts only to 21*l.* 8*s.*, and even at this high figure their condition is deplorable, thanks to the system employed. The same may be said for the waterways.

The necessity for reform, however, is keenly felt, and it is realized that the whole service of public works in the Colony must be reorganized before embarking on a future programme. The money obtained by the recent loans contracted by the Colony has been employed in paying off old debts and balancing the yearly Budget. The Colony now wishes to raise a new loan of 248,000*l.* Of this total 43,000*l.* are to be expended on the following public works: (*a*) The deepening of the port of Pointe à Pitre in order to create a basin covering an area of 31 hectares (78 acres); (*b*) the improvement of the water supply of the same town; and (*c*) the extension of the road system.

French Congo.

During the last ten years the French Colony of the Congo has shown signs of remarkable vitality. Its commerce, which in 1901 amounted only to 440,000*l.*, had increased in 1905 to 960,000*l.* The yield of the poll-tax, which did not amount to 4,000*l.* in 1900, rose to 32,000*l.* in 1905, and is estimated at 40,000*l.* for 1906. The custom-house receipts have trebled in the last five or six years. Thanks to the complete reorganization of the administrative and economic system of the Colony in 1906, there is every reason to hope that its progress may continue with increased rapidity. A brief sketch of the events which led to the reorganization above mentioned may not be out of place.

At the beginning of the year 1905 the Colonial Department became aware of a series of acts of cruelty and violence perpetrated upon the natives by two officials of the Colony, Messrs. Toqué and Gaud. The reports were of so serious a nature that the Government determined to dispatch a Mission to the French Congo to investigate matters. M. de Savorgnan de Brazza, one of the first "Commissaires Généraux" of the Government in the Colony, was placed at the head of the Mission. He accomplished the task intrusted to him, but died on the return journey at Dakar.

Owing to a leakage, certain documents drawn up by M. de Brazza were published. A considerable amount of excitement was aroused, and a Committee was appointed by the Minister for the Colonies to examine and report upon the situation of the Colony. This Committee was presided over by M. de Lanessan, ex-Minister of Marine. M. Gentil, the Commissioner-General, was violently attacked, both in the Chamber of Deputies and in a certain section of the press. He was, however, vigorously defended by the Government, who maintained that he could not be held responsible for a state of affairs which existed before his arrival, nor for atrocities which he was the first to bring to the cognizance of the Courts of Justice. In a speech delivered in the Chamber of Deputies, M. Clémentel, Minister for the Colonies, declared that the only remedy lay in a thorough reform of the whole organization and administration of the Colony. M. Gentil was reinstated in his post with extended powers, and two Decrees were published on the 11th February, 1906, the one reorganizing the whole system of the French Congo, the other providing for three new Justices of the Peace at Fort de Possel, Onesso, and N'Djole respectively.

The Minister for the Colonies, in his Report, submitting the first Decree to the President of the Republic, stated that the object of the proposed reform was to call into existence a more centralized system of control and a better administration. The Commissioner-General would henceforward be relieved of a large amount of adminis-

trative work of detail by the appointment of two Lieutenant-Governors at Gaboon and Chari-Tchad respectively, and of an Administrator exercising the functions of a Lieutenant-General in the Middle Congo. The territory north of Oubangui, known as "le territoire militaire du Tchad," was placed under the Officer Commanding the troops in that territory, who would be under the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor of Chari-Tchad.

Article 13 of the Decree dealt with the question of the concessionnaire Companies, and provided for the creation of a branch authority possessed of local knowledge to assist the Special Commissioner charged with their supervision and control. Special instructions were, moreover, issued to M. Gentil by M. Clémentel indicating the course which he was to follow on his return to his post. In these instructions M. Clémentel stated at considerable length the decisions arrived at for the reform of the administrative, financial, economic, and social organization of the Colony, and concluded with an investigation of the financial means at the disposal of the Government for giving effect to these reforms.

Under the heading of economic organization, M. Clémentel dealt with the three important points, viz., (1) Transport, (2) the concessionnaire Companies, and (3) Public Works.

With regard to No. 1, he pointed out that, pending the construction of a narrow-gauge railway between Fort de Possel and Fort Crampel, the route between these two stations was impracticable, owing to the insuperable aversion of the natives to act as carriers, and must be abandoned in favour of the route via Benoue–Logoue and the Niger. By the latter the whole transport might be effected without the assistance of human carriers, as far as Leré by water, from Leré to Logoue by oxen, and thence by water as far as Lake Tchad. M. Clémentel further stated that his intention of having once more recourse to the services of the Royal Niger Company, which had given most excellent results the previous year.

(2.) M. Clémentel defined clearly what he considered to be the position and duties of the concessionnaire Companies, and laid down that in future they must be subjected to a far more rigorous system of control, especially as regarded the employment of native labour and the replanting of rubber trees.

In dealing with the third point (Public Works) M. Clémentel laid special stress upon the importance of the establishment and development of the postal and telegraphic system throughout the Colony.

Careful rules were laid down in the instructions with regard to the treatment of the natives, the administration of justice, and the construction of sanitary works.

In examining the financial aspect of the case, M. Clémentel divided the expenditure into two categories: (1) The expenditure entailed by the administrative reorganization of the Congo which was of a permanent character; and (2) the expenditure entailed by the execution of reforms which could no longer be delayed, and which might be regarded as exceptional.

The first should be met by the ordinary local Budgets; the second would necessitate a loan, for which the Colony would require the assistance of the mother-country.

The most important item of revenue in the local Budgets was the poll-tax, and M. Clémentel dwelt on the necessity for clearly defining the purely political character of the tax, and of reforming its present mode of collection. This, he considered, could best be done by insuring, as far as possible, its payment in money and not in labour or in kind.

The Commission presided over by M. de Lanessan estimated the loan required for the exceptional expenditure at 3,000,000*l.*, to be devoted to the development of the road system; the construction of a railway in Gabon, the construction of a narrow-gauge railway from Fort Sibut to Fort Crampel, the laying of a submarine cable between Libreville and Loango, the construction of fresh telegraphic lines, &c.

This amount has, after careful examination, been reduced to 2,200,000*l.*, to be employed as follows :—

	£
(*a.*) For the section of the railway from N'Djole to Ivindo	1,400,000
(*b.*) For the submarine cable	80,000
(*c.*) For the railway from Fort Sibut to Fort Crampel	520,000
(*d.*) For telegraph lines and improvement of navigation	120,000
(*e.*) Towards repayment of loan of 1900	80,000
	2,200,000

This sum of 2,200,000*l.* would be obtained by means of a loan by instalments, and M. Saint-Germain, in his report on behalf of the Budget Committee of the Senate for 1907, recommends that a first instalment should be raised at once, and employed as follows :—

	£
For the cable from Libreville to Loango	108,000
Towards repayment of the loan of 1900	80,000
For the establishment of telegraph lines	32,000
For the construction of the platform of the Decauville railway from Fort Sibut to Fort Crampel	60,000
For the construction of the section of the railway between N'Djole and Ivindo	400,000

Finance.

As stated above, the Law of the 13th April, 1900, confirmed the principle that the Colonies disposed of all their revenues, but completed it by the second principle that they must also, so far as possible, bear their expenses. At the same time it modified the strict application of the principle by admitting :—

(1.) That for their civil expenditure the Colonies might, when necessary, receive subventions from the home Budget.

(2.) That the State would continue for the moment to discharge the military expenditure, but that gradually the expenditure would devolve on the Colonies by means of contributions paid to the home Budget, which would increase until they covered the total expenditure.

Financial Organization of the Colonies.

The Colonies in this respect are divided into two categories : Colonies with representative Assemblies, and Colonies without.

The former comprise :—

Martinique	Where the "Conseils Généraux" exist since 1854.
Guadeloupe	
Réunion	
French Guiana	Where the "Conseils Généraux" were established between 1878 and 1884.
French possessions in India ..	
Senegal	
New Caledonia	

In all these Colonies the "Conseil Général" votes the Budget.

Should the "Conseil Général" not meet ,or should it break up without having voted the Budget, the latter is fixed by the Minister of the Colonies on the proposition of the Governor in Privy Council (*Senatus-Consultum* of the 4th July, 1866).

As regards revenue, the "Conseils Généraux" possessed until 1900 the right of establishing taxes (with the exception of customs dues reserved to the Home Parliament by the Law of the 11th January, 1882) and of settling the tariffs. Their authority was only limited in the case of the assessment of the taxes and the regulations for their collection, for which a Decree of the Council of State was necessary. Pending this sanction, their decisions had the force of law.

This system gave rise to abuses, and it was largely modified by the Law of the 13th April, 1900. The "Conseils Généraux" continue to discuss the tariffs, the mode of assessment of the taxes and the regulations for their collection, but all their decisions must be sanctioned by the Council of State, and pending this sanction the taxes are collected in accordance with the system in force.

As regards expenditure, the régime organized by the *Senatus-Consultum* of 1866 was the following :—

A certain number of items of expenditure (the salary of the Governor, the staff of justice and religion, the service of the Treasury, the military expenditure) were defrayed by the home Budget. The remaining items of expenditure were divided into two categories—obligatory expenses and optional expenses.

The "Conseils Généraux" had complete control of the optional expenses when once the obligatory expenditure was provided for.

This system was again altered by the Law of the 13th April, 1900, which divides the Colonies possessing representative Assemblies into two categories :—

In the first (Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, and Réunion) the nomenclature and the maximum of obligatory expenses are determined by Decrees delivered in the Council of State, and their amount is fixed by the Minister for the Colonies. The " Conseils Généraux " retain their absolute control of the optional expenses.

In the second category (Senegal, French possessions in India, and New Caledonia), the obligatory expenditure to be inscribed in the Budget is determined by law; but in these Colonies the initiative in proposing expenditure, both obligatory and optional, is reserved to the Governor, so that the local Assemblies cannot vote any expenditure not proposed in the first instance by the Administration. With regard to the power of borrowing, the "Conseils Généraux" are called upon to discuss the loans to be raised and the guarantees to be given. But the result of their discussions must be sanctioned by Decree.

By a Decree dated the 8th February, 1880, an Assembly was created in Cochin China known as the Colonial Council, composed partly of Frenchmen, partly of natives. This Council fulfils the functions of a " Conseil Général."

The financial organization of Cochin China continues to be governed by the provisions of the *Senatus-Consultum* of 1866.

The local Budget, after having been voted by the Colonial Council, is fixed by the Governor-General in Council, and is finally sanctioned by Decree in the same way as the other local Budgets.

Colonies Not Possessing Representative Assemblies.

These are :—

In Africa.—All the French possessions in West Africa (except Senegal), Madagascar, the Congo, Mayotte, and the Somali Coast.
In Asia.—The French possessions in Indo-China, with the exception of Cochin China.
In America.—St. Pierre and Miquelon.
In Oceania.—Tahiti.

The financial and fiscal organization of all Colonies not possessing representative Assemblies is laid down in the organic Decrees by which each one is governed, and it is consequently necessary to examine each one successively.

The Decree of the 20th November, 1882, lays down that the Budgets of the Colonies not possessing " Conseils Généraux," after having been prepared and discussed in Privy Council, in Government Council, or in Administrative Council, will be put into force by the Governor in Council.

The Decree of the 30th January, 1867, relative to taxation in the Colonies not possessing Administrative Assemblies, lays down that the tariffs, the assessment of the taxes, and the regulations for their collection (with the exception of customs duties), are to be determined by Decrees of the Governors, subject to the approval of the Minister, but having the force of law pending that sanction.

French Possessions in West Africa.

As stated above, a general Budget was instituted for the French possessions in West Africa by the Decree of the 18th October, 1904. At the same time six local Budgets (Senegal, French Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Upper Senegal and Niger, and Mauritania) were created.

The general Budget is fixed by the Governor-General in Government Council. This Council, which is purely consultative, is composed of high functionaries of the Colony and of four notables. The local Budgets are prepared by the Lieutenant Governors in local Administrative Council, and are fixed by the Governor-General in Government Council. The local Budget of Senegal, which as stated above possesses a " Conseil Général," is subject to the ratification of that Assembly.

All the various Budgets must be finally approved by Decree.

With regard to revenue, the Lieutenant-Governors and the Governor-General have the right, each one in his own sphere, to fix the taxes destined to provide the funds required for their own Budget, in accordance with the legislation of 1867. The export and import duties, however, levied on account of the general Budget, have to be

approved by a Decree delivered in the Council of State. As regards the right to borrow, the loan issued in 1903 had to be approved by law (Law of 5th July, 1903), as it was guaranteed by the State.

Congo.

The Congo has a general Budget and three local Budgets.

By a Decree, dated the 11th February, 1906, a financial régime was established for the Congo similar to that of French West Africa. The general Budget is fixed by the High Commissioner in Government Council, and the local Budgets are prepared by the Lieutenant-Governors in local Administrative Council and fixed by the High Commissioner. All these Budgets must be approved by Decree. The régime of 1867 holds good as regards taxation.

Madagascar.

In accordance with the Decree of the 11th September, 1895, the Budget, after having been fixed by the Governor in Administrative Council,* must receive the approval of the Minister of the Colonies.

The régime of 1867 holds good as regards taxation.

Any loans contracted by the Colony must be approved by law.

Mayotte.

The Budget is fixed by the Governor in Administrative Council, and must be approved by the Minister of the Colonies.

Somali Coast.

The Budget is put into force by the Governor in Administrative Council.

Indo-China.

A general Budget exists for Indo-China, and five local Budgets (Cochin China, Cambodia, Annam, Tonquin, and Laos).

The general Budget, organized by the Decree of the 31st July, 1898, is fixed by the Governor-General in Council ("Conseil Supérieur"). This Council is composed of high officials of the Colony and notables, two of whom are natives.

Local Budgets.—As stated above, Cochin China possesses a Colonial Council and enjoys a special régime. The four other local Budgets are drawn up by the residents in local Administrative Council, and then fixed by the Governor-General in Council ("Conseil Supérieur").

All the local Budgets must be approved by Decree. The general Budget must be approved by a Decree delivered in the Council of Ministers.

With regard to taxation, the resources destined to provide the necessary funds for the local Budgets (Cochin China always excepted) are governed by the provisions of the Law of 1867. Indirect taxes (other than customs duties) are settled by the Governor-General in Council, but the mode of assessment and the regulations for their collection must be approved by Decree.

Any loan contracted by the Government of Indo-China must be sanctioned by law.

St. Pierre and Miquelon.

By a Decree dated the 2nd April, 1885, a "Conseil Général" was created in St. Pierre and Miquelon, but was subsequently abolished in 1897 by a Decree dated the 25th June.

The Administrator of the Colony draws up the Budget, and decides with regard to taxation and local contributions, but his decisions are subject to the approval of the Minister for the Colonies, and cannot be put into force until it has been received.

* This Council is purely consultative, and consists of the principal officials of the Colony and two notables.

Tahiti.

As in St. Pierre and Miquelon, a "Conseil Général" was created in Tahiti by a Decree dated the 28th December, 1895, and abolished by the Decree of the 19th May, 1903.

The financial organization is the same as that of St. Pierre and Miquelon. The Governor draws up the Budget, subject to the approval of the Minister, and decides with regard to taxation.

The revenue and expenditure of the Colonies are divided into two categories:—

(1.) The revenue and expenditure inscribed in the home Budget.
(2.) The revenue and expenditure inscribed in the local Budgets.

(1.) *Revenue and Expenditure inscribed in the Home Budget.*

Certain revenues collected in the Colonies are devoted to the home Budget, the principal items being the annuity of four lakhs of rupees paid by the Government of India, and the produce of the convict labour in French Guiana and New Caledonia.

Under the heading "Recettes d'Ordre" are included the amounts held back on salaries, the reimbursement of the sums paid for treatment in the Colonial hospitals, and the contributions paid by the Colonies to military expenditure. These latter, as stated above, were created by the Law of the 13th April, 1900. Up to now the contributions have been mainly supplied by Indo-China. They amounted in 1904 (the last closed account which has been published) to 528,000*l*.

The principal items of expenditure for the Colonies inscribed in the home Budget are those for protection, control, and "sovereignty," the expenditure for the penal settlements and the subventions granted to Colonies, and to various Colonial railways and submarine cables.

REVENUE collected in the Colonies on Account of the Home Budget from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Various Products of the Budget.	Receipts.				Total.
		Sums held back on Colonial Salaries.	Contributions from the Colonies.*	Reimbursement of Expenses of treatment in Colonial Hospitals.	Contributions towards Military Expenditure.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1895 ..	60,530	26,695	279,888	..	..	367,113
1896 ..	56,334	40,149	192,802	..	..	289,285
1897 ..	57,209	54,114	280,475	..	..	391,798
1898 ..	58,457	44,541	277,807	39,294	..	420,099
1899 ..	65,771	48,926	97,318	43,481	..	255,496
1900 ..	62,477	42,873	95,462	50,085	..	250,897
1901 ..	62,961	49,239	5,935	54,094	412,632	584,861
1902 ..	54,531	51,781	3,640	67,745	457,640	635,337
1903 ..	48,668	46,503	..	54,738	498,619	648,528
1904 ..	43,672	51,731	8,440	55,320	528,000	687,163

* These receipts are derived mainly from the contribution paid by Cochin China up to 1900.

COLONIAL Expenditure Inscribed in the Home Budget from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Common Expenses. (1)	Civil Expenditure. (2)	Military Expenditure.	Penal Expenditure.	Extraordinary Expenditure.	Expenditure of Financial Years whose Accounts are Closed.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1895 ..	105,994	408,388	2,214,011	385,803	..	88,506	3,203,702
1896 ..	26,731	445,903 (3)	2,405,775 (6)	367,846	..	13,672	3,455,927
1897 ..	94,484	641,241	3,043,270	365,188	8,000	128,328	4,288,511
1898 ..	95,435	573,674	3,009,793	369,343	27,234	407,681	4,483,160
1899 ..	94,316	528,290 (4)	3,163,926 (7)	354,372	12,039	22,336	4,175,279
1900 ..	94,385	692,348 (5)	3,932,409 (7)	327,409	2,000	52,242	5,100,793
1901 ..	102,342	500,178	4,020,242	330,587	600 (8)	80,193	5,034,142
1902 ..	89,233	341,460	3,641,050	324,932	61,753	143,387	4,601,815
1903 ..	87,646	291,870	3,308,958	326,980	..	119,992	4,135,446
1904 ..	85,470	290,696	3,303,573	310,899	53,638 (9)	165,012	4,209,288

(1) These expenses comprise mainly the expenses for the Central Administration, inspection, and the subventions to submarine cables.
(2) Subventions to local Budgets and certain railways.
(3) Exceptional increase of subventions to local Budgets of the Congo and Madagascar.
(4) Exceptional expenses due to the Exhibition of 1900.
(5) Increase due to the régime of decentralization introduced by Law of April 13, 1900.
(6) Increased expenditure for Corps of Occupation of Madagascar.
(7) Increased expenditure for Corps of Occupation of Madagascar and Indo-China and of the credits voted for Colonial defence generally.
(8) 52,753*l.* of this expenditure is due to the expenditure entailed by the eruption in Martinique.
(9) 40,000*l.* of this expenditure is due to the assistance granted to the victims of the cyclone at Réunion.

(2.) *Revenue and Expenditure of the Local Budgets.*

SENEGAL.

TABLE showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895..	129,325	27,805	157,130	103,792
1896..	151,271	7,240	158,511	101,668
1897..	166,273	1,200	167,473	100,225
1898..	179,614	..	179,614	104,606
1899..	213,320	3,725	217,045	122,476
1900..	244,566	..	244,566	124,352
1901..	272,381	51,229	323,610	125,706
1902..	240,292	100,279	340,571	151,794
1903..	271,709	60,223	331,932	270,251*
1904..	260,132	20,786	280,918	266,732*

* Increase due to extraordinary works executed by means of loans.

The receipts for the financial year 1904 may be divided up as follows :—

	£
Direct taxes and imports assimilated to direct taxes..	14,039
Customs	190,825
Registration	5,162
Posts and telegraphs	13,634
Other receipts	36,472
Total	260,132

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were the following :—

	£
Debts	59,938
Posts and telegraphs	20.483
Public works	80.662
Public instruction	18,086

French Guinea.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895..	24,290	..	24,290	26,628
1896..	30,023	..	30,023	29,148
1897..	37,632	..	37,632	37,462
1898..	70,763	..	70,763	53,805
1899..	89,773	..	89,773	77,175
1900..	149,386	81,328	230,714	116,699
1901..	150,578	215,808	366,386	212,994*
1902..	198,404	355,819	554,223	467,769*
1903..	274,739	170,350	445,089	445,070*
1904..	260,816	560,190	821,006	797,472*

* Increase due to extraordinary works executed by means of loans.

The receipts for the financial year 1904 may be divided up as follows :—

	£
Direct taxes..	152,972
Customs	68,378
Registration..	372
Posts and telegraphs	4,826
Other receipts	34,268
Total	260,816

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were :—

	£
Contributions and debts	25,251
Expenses of administration	26,773
Treasury and registration	29,616
Ordinary public works..	31,896
Extraordinary public works (executed by means of loans)	560,191

Ivory Coast.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895..	64,172	7,000	71,172	58,259
1896..	60,172	6,000	66,172	50,550
1897..	49,220	20,000	69,220	64,957
1898..	58,971	11,888	70,859	61,246
1899..	65,471	11,640	77,111	77,110
1900	87,403	..	87,403	79,170
1901..	88,108	..	88,108	86,993
1902..	121,396	..	121,396	115,417
1903..	116,638	8,400	125,038	123,709
1904..	157,337	..	157,337	143,820*

* Increase due to extraordinary public works executed by means of loans.

The receipts for the financial year 1904 may be divided up as follows :—

	£
Direct contributions	42,411
Customs	100,557
Registration	142
Posts and telegraphs	5,302
Various	8,945

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were :—

	£
Colonial contingents and debts	16,737
Expenses of administration	27,983
Police and prisons	16,947
Posts and telegraphs	15,849
Public works	17,736
Extraordinary public works (executed by means of loans)	128,252

Dahomey.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895..	68,356	..	68,356	84,288
1896..	90,241	..	90,241	89,761
1897..	76,580	..	76,580	86,556
1898..	96,396	..	96,396	106,745
1899..	108,380	..	108,380	85,751
1900..	136,569	..	136,569	115,660
1901..	180,544	..	180,544	144,848
1902..	241,906	..	241,906	181,721
1903..	182,824	28,395	211,219	198,390
1904..	193,918	26,080	219,998	182,239

The receipts for the financial year 1904 may be divided up as follows* :—

	£
Direct taxes	27,963
Customs	150,104
Registration	909
Posts and telegraphs	2,125
Various	12,417

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were :—

	£
Debts	13,518
Expenses of administration	25,656
Police and prisons	13,222
Public works	24,531
Railways	38,631
Posts and telegraphs	11,549

* 400*l.* unaccounted for.

Upper Senegal and Niger.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895..	99,584	..	99,584	99,584
1896..	96,046	33,422	129,468	112,035
1897..	92,074	26,431	118,505	115,854
1898..	146,384	39,439	185,823	185,822
1899..	170,676	139,200	309,876	309,876*
1900..	157,174	3,200	160,374	160,373
1901..	190,653	11,600	202,253	202,253
1902..	176,085	7,720	183,805	183,805
1903..	373,296	61,362	434,658	359,864
1904..	478,373	249,236	727,609	578,952

* Exceptional expenditure for the railway from Kayes to the Niger.

The receipts for the financial year 1904 may be divided up as follows :—

	£
Direct taxes	312,965
Taxes on caravans	4,910
Posts and telegraphs	7,682
Contributions of Senegal, French Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Dahomey	118,886
Various	33,930
Total	478,373

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were :—

	£
Expenditure of the territories of Upper Senegal and the Niger—	
Expenses of administration	68,308
Financial services	37,411
Posts and telegraphs	24,602
Police and prisons	17,807
Public works	38,085
Expenses of Mauritania	34,752
Extraordinary works	100,904
Expenditure of the Government-General—	
Civil service of the Government-General	49,605
Debt	88,170
Extraordinary works	15,556

French Possessions in West Africa.*

Statement of Accounts of the Loan of 2,600,000*l.* (1903).

	1903.	1904.
	£	£
Receipts—		
Produce of a loan on a nominal capital issued of 1,734,400*l.*	1,599,998	
Expenses—		
Opening up of ways of penetration	..	12,745
Reimbursement of previous loans	..	573,119
Various	..	3,811
		589,675

* The Budget of the Government-General of French West Africa was only created in 1905 (Decree of October 18, 1904).

On the 1st January, 1906, the various Budgets of the French possessions in West Africa disposed of the following reserve fund :—

	£
General Budget	201,305
Senegal	60,000
Mauritania	18,960
Upper Senegal and Niger	40,000
French Guinea	60,000
Ivory Coast	37,514
Dahomey	60,000
Total	477,779

French Congo.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1899 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1899..	194,851	..	194,851	194,878
1900..	194 111	..	194,111	185,033
1901..	202,355*	..	202,355	184,561
1902..	140,382	11,272	151,654	121,968
1903..	137,885	81,896	219,781	172,460
1904..	176,547	79,073	255,620	202,592

* The decrease shown in revenue is due to the reduction of the subvention from the Home Government.

The receipts for 1903 may be detailed as follows :—

	£
Direct taxes	3,118
Indirect taxes	72,298
Subvention from the Home Government	28,000
Various	34,469
Total	137,885

The principal items of expenditure in 1903 were :—

	£
Expenses of administration, militia, &c.	36,940
Financial services	18,692
Public works	11,802
Extraordinary works	54,254

On the 30th June, 1905, the French Congo possessed a reserve fund of 68,000*l.*

Réunion.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895..	235,510	..	235,510	214,990
1896..	240,552	..	240,552	202,799
1897..	243,173	..	243,173	212,959
1898..	266,670	..	266,670	263,053
1899..	234,629	13,649	238,278	228,742
1900..	225,037	18,011	243,048	245,044
1901..	224,725	10,800	235,525	234,752
1902..	195,151	31,430	226,581	225,592
1903..	215,677	..	215,677	214,284
1904..	198,396	8,000	206,396	203,642

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows :—

	£
Direct taxes	26,532
Customs	28,825
Registration	23,052
Various indirect taxes	58,457
Posts and telegraphs	5,677
Subvention from the Home Government	9,200
"Recettes d'ordre"	34,699
Various	11,954
Total	198,396

The following were the principal items of expenditure :—

	£
Debts, pensions	8,445
Justice	13,735
Public instruction	9,874
Gendarmerie	12,440
Financial services	18,740
Posts and telegraphs	18,754
Public works	22,036
"Dépenses d'ordre"	35,331

MADAGASCAR.

TABLE showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895..	..	..	..	..
1896..	..	..	..	..
1897..	..	..	..	..
1898..	519,714	..	519,714	418,630
1899	599,406	..	599,406	563,036
1900..	772,431	..	772,431	682,489
1901..	942,445	..	942,445	925,910
1902..	1,024,925	..	1,024,925	1,012,910
1903..	996,053	..	996,053	968,319
1904..	994,612	..	994,612	897,357

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows :—

	£
Poll-tax	497,004
Land tax on houses	23,474
„ on rice fields	65,472
Tax on proprietors of animals	29,182
Patents	21,554
Tax for medical assistance	43,916
Customs	127,366
Posts and telegraphs	24,565
Market dues	39,993
Various	122,086
Total	994,612

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were :—

	£
Staff of the French Administration	84,945
„ Native „	21,810
Service of the Treasury	40,537
„ „ Customs and indirect taxes	28,664
Posts and telegraphs	71,593
District guards	53,233
Service of public works	118,638
Education	26,563
Medical assistance (native)	40,454
Transport of staff and material	74,520
Subventions to municipal Budgets	29,788

This expenditure does not include the extraordinary expenditure engaged on resources from loans, which is inscribed in a special account.

The debt of the Government-General of Madagascar is composed as follows :—

	Nominal Capital.	Capital in circulation on January 1, 1907.
	£	£
2½ per Cent. Loan of 1897	1,200,000	1,107,160
3 per Cent. Loan of 1903–5	2,674,620	2,623,980
Total	3,874,620	3,731,140

The service of the 2½ per Cent. Loan of 1897 is directly guaranteed by the French Government. (Law of the 5th April, 1897.)

The 3 per Cent. Loan of 1903–5 is guaranteed by the inscription of the annuity in the obligatory expenditure of the local Budget, and by a subvention from the French State if the revenue of the Colony does not cover the obligatory expenditure. It is thus practically guaranteed by the State.

The reserve fund of the Colony amounted on the 30th June, 1906, to 302,101*l.*

Mayotte and its Dependencies.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1900 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1900..	28,317	4,352	32,669	30,912
1901..	32,357	4,032	36,389	32,605
1902..	26,683	2,902	29,585	29,291
1903..	29,309	1,745	31,054	31,289
1904..	27,724	2,294	30,018	29,010

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows:—

	£
Direct taxes	13,128
Customs	6,926
Registration	2,495
"Recettes d'ordre"	720
Various	4,455
Total	27,724

The principal items of expenditure were:—

	£
General administration and debts	2,749
Police and prisons	2,514
Public works	1,437
Collection of taxes	5,003

On the 30th June, 1904, the reserve fund of Mayotte amounted to 2,916*l.*

Somali Coast.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1900 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1900..	35,723	3,899	39,622	34,087
1901..	38,570	3,209	41,779	28,176
1902..	32,239	10,000	42,239	32,505
1903..	27,588	20,000	47,588	45,317
1904..	43,142	10,000	53,142	48,821

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows:—

	£
Subvention from Home Government	18,000
Land tax	659
Customs	12,422
Registration	620
Various contributions	3,429
Posts and telegraphs	2,176
Various	5,836
Total	43,142

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were:—

	£
Debts	20,000
Expenses of administration	3,384
Police and native expenses	4,838
Public works	11,142

On the 30th June, 1904, the reserve fund of the Colony amounted to 5,910*l.*

French Possessions in India.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1896 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1896..	68,619	1,676	70,295	70,295
1897..	67,634	3,153	70,787	70,295
1898..	67,971	1,094	69,065	69,065
1899..	70,326	4,750	75,076	72,148
1900..	68,447	67	68,514	68,059
1901..	84,103	3,750	87,853	84,933
1902..	88,811	..	88,811	79,876
1903..	91,637	..	91,637	83,990
1904..	97,480	3,000	100,480	95,908

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows :—

	£
Direct taxes	17,274
Port and navigation dues	1,762
Registration and domains	7,336
Various taxes	56,357
Posts and telegraphs	598
Subvention from Home Government	4,716
Various	9,437
Total	97,480

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were :—

	£
Debts, pensions, and contingents	4,120
Administration and local representation	8,538
Justice and religion	8,698
Public instruction	9,610
Police and prisons	7,438
Financial services	18,600
State aid and hospitals	8,198
Public works	16,747

On the 30th June, 1904, the reserve fund of the French possessions in India amounted to 31,988*l.*

Indo-China.

General Budget.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure of the General Budget of Indo-China from 1899 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1899..	1,968,770	..	1,968,770	1,639,800
1900..	2,168,893	..	2,168,893	1,905,400
1901..	2,395,393	..	2,395,393	2,293,200
1902..	2,444,347	..	2,444,347	2,425,826
1903..	2,593,347	..	2,593,347	2,631,478
1904	2,809,851	..	2,809,851	2,797,031

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows :—

	£
Customs	619,616
Indirect taxes and "régies"	1,733,836
Registration, domains, and stamps	102,650
Posts and telegraphs	65,314
State railways	78,928
Forests	40,108
Interest on capital	108,907
Various	60,492
Total	2,809,851

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were :—

	£
Public works	385,680
State railways	92,133
Loans	417,421
Posts and telegraphs	165,090
Military services	527,663
Customs and "régies"	618,654
Assistance	184,575
Justice and gendarmerie	92,359
Transport	63,391
Bounties to shipping	56,317

This expenditure does not include the expenditure on account of the 3 per cent. loan of 8,000,000*l.*, which is inscribed in a special account.

The Debt of the Government-General of Indo-China is composed as follows :—

	Nominal Capital.	Nominal Capital in circulation on January 1, 1907.
	£	£
2½ per Cent. Loan of 1896 (Annam-Tonquin)	3,678,000	3,342,800
3½ per Cent. Loan of 8,000,000*l.* issued from 1899 to 1905	8,748,260	8,640,060
Total	12,426,260	11,982,860

The service of the Loan of 1896 is guaranteed by the French Government. (Law of the 10th February, 1896.)

In execution of the Laws of the 25th December, 1898, and the 5th July, 1901, the Government-General of Indo-China undertook to grant a guarantee of interest of 120,000*l.* to the French Company of the railways of Indo-China and Yünnan, to insure the service of the 3 per cent. bonds issued by the Company in 1901 for a nominal capital of 3,560,000*l.* The payment of this guarantee of interest is further guaranteed by the French Government.

On the 1st January, 1906, the various Budgets of the French possessions in Indo-China disposed of the following reserve funds :—

	£
General Budget	530,866
Cochin-China	none.
Cambodia	132,007
Annam	83,656
Tonquin (June 30, 1906)	97,061
Laos	not published.

Cochin China.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895..	1,237,105	..	1,237,105	1,179,860
1896..	1,193,631	57,245	1,250,876	1,250,073
1897..	1,411,062	..	1,411,062	1,410,788
1898..	1,509,258	..	1,509,258	1,507,435
1899..	472,721*	1,824	474,545	471,357
1900..	428,644	..	428,644	418,342
1901..	418,188	13,489	431,677	424,382
1902..	373,692	783	374,475	364,113
1903..	424,007	6,335	430,342	368,953
1904..	444,619	50,622	495,241	467,328

* The decrease is due to the creation of the general Budget of Indo-China, to which a large number of items of revenue were transferred, which had up till then been collected by the various Colonies and Protectorates.

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows:—

	£
Direct taxes..	374,630
Domains and forests	16,780
Various	45,419
Revenue from farming out of ferries, fisheries, pawnbroking establishments, and birds'-nests	7,790
Total	444,619

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were:—

	£
Government..	87,271
Administration	62,725
Public instruction	36,009
Topography and land survey	32,036
Public works	40,454
Transport	38,173
Penal settlements	19,489
Extraordinary works	43,663

Cambodia.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895..	161,908	74,736	236,644	166,604
1896..	210,522	46,026	256,548	231,193
1897..	267,251	47,590	314,841	252,464
1898..	298,215	16,420	314,635	259,877
1899..	212,751*	22,578	235,329	188,654
1900..	204,283	40,000	244,283	214,334
1901..	208,868	38,739	241,607	213,705
1902..	212,058	..	212,058	175,838
1903..	197,052	23,182	220,234	208,013
1904..	236,208	14,545	250,753	229,880

* Decrease due to creation of general Budget as in the case of Cochin China.

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows:—

	£
Direct taxes and imports assimilated to direct taxes	172,636
Forests	6,182
Subvention from the general Budget	1,364
"Recettes d'ordre"	7,500
Various	48,526
Total	236,208

The principal items of expenditure were :—

	£
Civil list	46,018
Government house and provincial residences	29,977
Administration	15,900
Native militia	15,715
Public works	39,593
Transport	11,716
Extraordinary works	14,545

Annam.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1899 to 1904.*

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1899..	203,082	..	203,082	175,117
1900..	209,246	18,650	227,895	227,352
1901..	213,804	28,268	242,072	241,414
1902..	205,360	..	205,360	188,257
1903..	210,199	..	210,199	199,105
1904..	233,799	13,636	247,435	232,480

* Up to the year 1899 the revenue and expenditure for Annam was included in that of Tonquin.

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows :—

	£
Direct taxes and imports assimilated to direct taxes	219,841
"Recettes d'ordre"	978
Various	12,980
Total	233,799

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were :—

	£
Civil list and native administration	85,000
Government house and residences	39,709
Native guard	32,609
Public works	24,898
Transport	10,108
Extraordinary works	14,861

Tonquin.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
Including Annam.				
1895..	774,799	63,738	838,537	957,663
1896..	775,106	..	775,106	855,567
1897..	984,496	..	984,496	878,816
1898..	1,115,952	..	1,115,952	939,460
Exclusive of Annam.				
1899..	426,497*	34,738	461,235	427,993
1900..	467,069	74,800	541,869	450,960
1901..	575,639	14,002	589,641	434,894
1902..	531,516	80,956	612,472	474,284
1903	597,272	11,304	608,576	414,896
1904..	736,648	1,045	737,693	494,031

* Decrease due to creation of general Budget.

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows :—

	£
Direct taxes and imports (assimilated to direct taxes)	417,723
"Recettes d'ordre"	198,190
Various	140,735
Total	756,648

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were :—

	£
Government house, &c.	102,553
Civil guard	66,392
Education	21,351
Medical service	16,370
Treasury	18,281
Public works	71,694
Agriculture	20,370
Transport	46,792
Debts	45,170

These items of expenditure do not include the expenditure on account of the 2½ per Cent. Loan of 1896, which was inscribed in a special account.

Laos.

Up till 1896 Laos had no special Budget, but was administered by Cochin China, Annam, and Tonquin.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1896 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1896..	78,255	..	78,255	63,975
1897..	67,677	14,278	81,955	81,796
1898..	86,392	1,093	87,485	86,728
1899..	73,526*	5,462	78,988	77,417
1900..	67,686	1,570	69,256	69,256
1901..	74,792	1,856	76,648	75,556
1902..	68,750	950	69,700	69,700
1903..	86,134	..	86,134	82,422
1904..	82,768	174	82,942	76,344

* Decrease due to creation of general Budget.

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows :—

	£
Direct taxes	15,606
Subvention from the general Budget	54,090
Various	13,072
Total	82,768

The principal items of expenditure for 1904 were :—

	£
Government house, &c.	22,558
Native guard	17,327
Public works	5,739
Transport	19,191

St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895..	19,193	..	19,193	19,051
1896..	18,302	..	18,302	18,529
1897..	19,005	..	19,005	17,408
1898..	18,284	..	18,284	16,322
1899..	16,469	..	16,469	17,322
1900..	20,942	..	20,942	20,926
1901..	25,009	..	25,009	24,655
1902..	36,162	..	36,162	24,459
1903..	25,017	..	25,017	25,286
1904..	21,987	..	21,987	24,868

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows :—

	£
Subvention from the Home Government	3,920
Direct taxes	1,550
Warehouse dues, &c.	4,966
Customs	9,918
Various	1,633
Total	21,987

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were :—

	£
Debts	1,738
General administration	2,278
Police, prisons, gendarmerie	1,555
Postal service	4,837
Customs	1,314
Service of ports and roadsteads	1,175
Justice	1,569
Public instruction	1,164
Public works	1,118

Guadeloupe.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895..	251,522	1,840	253,362	253,836
1896..	266,857	..	266,857	267,353
1897..	205,733	45,399	251,132	252,903
1898..	190,490	18,846	209,336	229,427
1899..	207,523	59,217	266,740	267,060
1900..	235,236	3,092	238,328	198,431
1901..	246,334	60,000	306,334	306,445*
1902..	230,347	..	230,347	230,388
1903..	211,637	..	211,637	202,776
1904..	206,022	36,000	242,022	239,051

* Due to increase of extraordinary expenditure.

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows :—

	£
Direct taxes	15,762
Registration	13,154
Customs	56,463
Various indirect taxes	67,654
Various	52,989
Total	206,022

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were :—

	£
Debts	23,482
Justice and public worship	20,508
Customs and various taxes	28,000
Posts and telegraphs	13,532
Public instruction	13,407
Gendarmerie	21,096
Public works	23,468
Extraordinary expenditure	35,634

The debt of the Colony amounts to about 360,000*l.*

Martinique.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895..	212,942	10,961	223,903	221,586
1896..	220,298	..	220,298	214,130
1897..	214,402	..	214,402	212,979
1898..	210,959	2,552	213,511	211,983
1899..	232,874	58,400	291,274	279,770*
1900..	217,138	46,662	263,800	263,860*
1901..	264,559	11,381	275,940	276,324
1902..	211,369	4,810	216,179	214,938
1903..	225,481	..	225,481	218,149
1904..	197,806	8,378	206,184	203,828

* On the 30th June, 1904, the reserve fund of the Colony amounted to 9,198*l.*

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows :—

	£
Direct taxes	13,081
Customs	46,422
Registration	14,421
Various indirect taxes	73,125
Domains	10,061
"Recettes d'ordre"	6,838
Various	33,858
Total	197,806

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were :—

	£
Debts	3,844
Gendarmerie	31,753
Justice	11,544
Public instruction	28,592
Various taxes	15,496
Posts and telegraphs	12,152
Customs	11,558
Public works	20,456
State aid	7,785
"Dépenses d'ordre"*	7,908
Extraordinary expenditure	12,821

* Expenditure undertaken for the account of third parties and eventually refunded by means of "Recettes d'ordres."

French Guiana.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895..	103,673	..	103,673	88,456
1896..	109,513	16,600	126,113	104,663
1897..	101,202	12,000	113,202	106,801
1898..	98,565	..	98,565	98,327
1899..	101,340	16,000	117,340	112,564
1900..	94,360	4,780	99,140	96,854
1901..	127,412	1,240	128,652	116,767
1902..	147,700	12,000	159,700	140,028
1903..	137,572	5,437	143,009	130,724
1904..	124,074	13,142	137,216	124,970

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows:—

	£
Direct taxes	8,306
Registration and stamp dues	9,283
Customs	39,217
Various indirect taxes	54,994
Subvention from Home Government	400
Various	11,874
Total	124,074

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were:—

	£
General administration	6,954
Public instruction	9,832
Justice	9,348
Customs	8,375
Debt	13,091
State aid	9,771
Public works	13,794

The reserve fund of the Colony amounted on the 30th June, 1904, to 36,966*l.*

New Caledonia.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895..	86,440	..	86,440	91,687
1896..	97,727	..	97,727	100,742
1897..	102,917	..	102,917	96,606
1898..	97,656	..	97,656	96,946
1899..	102,203	..	102,203	102,529
1900..	115,968	..	115,968	108,654
1901..	142,406	..	142,406	139,526
1902..	145,341	..	145,341	145,115
1903..	141,171	..	141,171	148,916
1904..	129,102	..	129,102	130,295

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows:—

	£
Direct taxes	19,317
Customs	63,127
Registration	5,403
Various indirect taxes	1,542
Posts and telegraphs	7,524
Subventions	19,600
Various	12,589
Total	129,102

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were:—

	£
Debts	9,958
General administration	7,657
Gendarmerie	19,013
Police	5,060
Posts and telegraphs	22,726
Customs and taxes	6,500
Justice and public worship	7,956
Public works	15,934

Tahiti.

Table showing the Revenue and Expenditure from 1895 to 1904.

Financial Year.	Revenue.			Total Expenditure.
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1895	43,985	1,203	45,188	44,939
1896	48,472	..	48,472	45,388
1897	49,444	..	49,444	46,856
1898	44,770	1,600	46,370	47,921
1899	59,403	..	59,408	53,286
1900	69,554	..	69,554	61,514
1901	74,426	..	74,426	72,950
1902	71,856	..	71,856	66,884
1903	77,576	..	77,576	72,188
1904	74,057	3,200	77,257	67,335

The revenue for 1904 may be detailed as follows:—

	£
Direct taxes	17,823
Indirect taxes	38,839
Subventions	6,760
Various	10,635
Total	74,057

The principal items of expenditure in 1904 were:—

	£
Debts	1,065
General administration	15,482
Public instruction	4,903
Justice	4,272
Financial service	14,569
Public works	7,649

Commerce.

The commercial régime in force in the French Colonies was organized by the Law of the 11th January, 1892.

In accordance with this Law the Colonies are divided into two groups:—

The first group comprises—

(1.) All the Colonies in America.
(2.) In Africa, the Congo, Réunion, Madagascar, and Mayotte.
(3.) Indo-China and New Caledonia.

These Colonies have the same Customs organization as France. All imports are subjected to the same dues as in France, except in the case of special exemptions created by Decree. French goods are admitted free. Reciprocally special treatment is accorded to the products of the Colonies on their entry into France, with the exception of sugar, which is regulated by special legislation, and of various other colonial products, such as coffee, cocoa, tea, vanilla, pepper, &c., which pay half the duty applicable to similar foreign products according to the minimum Tariff.

The second group comprises the French possessions in West Africa, the Somali Coast, the French possessions in India, and Tahiti.

In these Colonies it was impossible, for various reasons, to apply the home Tariff. Foreign goods are subjected to a Tariff fixed by Decree. Home goods enter free, and only pay the local dues, such as octroi, tithes, and taxes on consumption.

Exports from these Colonies into France pay the duties imposed by the minimum Tariff.

The products of one French Colony entering another do not pay duty.

Foreign products passing from one French Colony to another pay on their entry into the latter the difference between the duty imposed by the local Tariff and that of the Tariff of the exporting Colony.

Since the Laws of the 29th July, 1884, and the 13th July, 1886, Colonial sugars sent to France were treated like French native sugar, and benefited by the "déchet de fabrication," that is to say, the exemption of half the duty of 60 fr. per 100 kilom. for the portion representing the excess of yield of native French sugars.

Further, by the Law of the 7th April, 1897, Colonial sugars were made to benefit by the bounties on exportation and "détaxes de distance," which represented the repayment of the expenses of transport.

By the Law of the 23rd January, 1903, which was passed in consequence of the decisions arrived at by the Brussels International Conference, the "déchet de fabrication" and the bounties on export were abolished, and the consumption duty on sugars reduced from 60 fr. to 25 fr. The "détaxe de distance" still exists, and Colonial sugars, like native sugars, enjoy in the home market the protection resulting from the surtax of 6 fr. for refined sugar, or that of 5·50 fr. for raw sugar, which are imposed on foreign sugars, and also of the "surtaxes de compensation," which are imposed on foreign bounty-fed sugars.

Previous to the Law of the 11th January, 1892, the Colonies enjoyed complete commercial autonomy. By the *Senatus-Consultum* of 4th July, 1866, the "Conseils Généraux" had the right to vote their own Customs Tariffs, which were put into force by Decrees delivered in Council of State.

In the Colonies not possessing representative institutions, the functions of the "Conseils Généraux" were filled by "Conseils d'Administration." The duties thus imposed, however, only affected foreign goods, French products having always the right of free entry into the Colonies.

The Law of 11th January, 1892, decreed the assimilation, as regards customs, of the Colonies to the mother-country.

The "Conseils Généraux" and the "Conseils d'Administration" have retained only the right to ask for exceptions to be made in the home Tariff. Their deliberations are submitted to the Council of State, and Decrees are then issued in the form of "Règlements d'Administration Publique."

Commerce.

The commerce of the French Colonies from 1896 to 1905 amounted to :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	9,586,449	9,197,611	18,784,060
1897	10,019,566	10,369,962	20,389,528
1898	11,400,769	11,305,015	22,705,784
1899	13,174,781	12,231,624	25,406,405
1900	16,696,714	13,602,009	30,298,723
1901	18,286,022	14,017,093	32,303,115
1902	17,492,008	15,638,142	33,130,150
1903	17,890,187	13,882,295	31,772,482
1904	16,376,441	13,748,247	30,124,688
1905	19,563,180	15,394,299	34,957,479

These totals do not include the commerce of Algeria, which amounted in 1905 to 24,506,000*l.*, nor that of Tunisia, which amounted in the same year to 5,969,240*l.*

TABLE showing the Movement of Colonial Commerce in 1896.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
French possessions in West Africa	1,705,034	1,486,795	3,191,829
Congo	187,874	187,674	375,548
Réunion	875,516	695,432	1,570,948
Madagascar	559,517	144,238	703,755
Mayotte and dependencies ..	26,912	48,235	75,147
Somali Coast	..	..	..
French possessions in India ..	120,512	374,793	495,305
Indo-China	3,243,362	3,552,383	6,795,745
St. Pierre and Miquelon ..	343,402	420,799	764,201
Guadaloupe	793,084	738,555	1,531,639
Martinique	915,309	835,412	1,750,721
French Guiana	346,294	353,610	699,904
New Caledonia	358,704	229,942	588,646
Oceania	110,930	129,743	240,673
Total	9,586,450	9,197,611	18,784,061

TABLE showing the Movement of Colonial Commerce in 1905.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
French possessions in West Africa	3,874,698	2,248,317	6,123,015
Congo	415,166	557,310	972,476
Réunion	727,393	388,330	1,115,723
Madagascar	1,247,936	914,024	2,161,960
Mayotte and dependencies ..	30,877	123,866	154,743
Somali Coast	477,198	728,760	1,205,958
French possessions in India ..	254,248	1,087,440	1,341,688
Indo-China	10,182,411	6,750,306	16,932,717
St. Pierre and Miquelon ..	217,581	284,772	502,353
Guadaloupe	537,537	625,499	1,163,036
Martinique	590,367	722,777	1,313,144
French Guiana	457,575	397,580	855,155
New Caledonia	429,066	442,815	871,881
Oceania	121,126	122,503	243,629
Total	19,563,179	15,394,299	34,957,478

In 1896 the total commerce of the Colonies was divided up as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	3,875,006	4,184,166	8,059,172
French Colonies	338,007	180,665	518,672
Foreign countries	5,373,436	4,832,780	10,206,216
Total	9,586,449	9,197,611	18,784,060

In 1905 it was as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	9,033,054	6,090,590	15,123,644
French Colonies	499,818	290,800	790,618
Foreign countries	10,030,308	9,012,909	19,043,217
Total	19,563,180	15,394,299	34,957,479

In 1905 the principal foreign countries from which goods were imported were :—

		£
The British Colonies	for	4,198,343
China and Japan	„	1,477,661
The British Isles	„	1,338,481
United States	„	709,016
Germany	„	445,352

And the principal foreign countries to which goods were exported were :—

		£
British Colonies	for	3,058,459
The British Isles	„	772,348
China and Japan	„	497,288
Germany	„	458,386

TABLE showing Imports of French Colonies in 1905.

	£	£
Animal products—		
Live-stock	85,945	
Produce of animals	591,443	
Fish	184,665	
Medicinal products and perfumery	8,207	
.. ..	10,858	
Vegetable products—		881,118
Farinaceous foods	1,685,097	
Fruits and grains	307,521	
Colonial food products	1,033,482	
Vegetable oils	542,988	
Medicinal matter	155,024	
Wood	173,915	
Threads and fruits for working	289,923	
Dyes and tannins	7,771	
Various	185,952	
Drinks	1,336,580	
Minerals—		5,718,253
Marbles, stones, combustibles, and minerals	1,367,447	
Metals	1,415,758	
Manufactured goods—		2,783,205
Chemical products	305,373	
Prepared dyes	130,360	
Colours	93,400	
Various compositions	398,483	
Potteries	144,950	
Glass and crystal	135,774	
Threads	856,148	
Tissues	4,146,624	
Paper	431,851	
Skins and furs	254,031	
Works in metal	2,017,537	
Arms, powder, and ammunition	334,603	
Carried forward	9,249,134	

TABLE showing Imports of French Colonies in 1905—*continued.*

	£	£
Manufactured goods—*continued*—		
Brought forward	9,249,134	
Furniture	33,528	
Works in wood	102,223	
Musical instruments	14,607	
Mat and basket-work	81,822	
Various	599,290	
		10,180,604
Total		19,563,180

TABLE showing the Exports from the French Colonies in 1905.

	£	£
Animal products—		
Live-stock	161,623	
Produce of animals	624,057	
Fish	806,946	
Medicinal products and perfumery	215,139	
.. ..	292,942	
		1,900,707
Vegetable products—		
Farinaceous foods	3,219,651	
Fruits and grains	1,388,971	
Colonial food products	2,107,887	
Vegetable oils	1,957,193	
Medicinal products	27,687	
Wood	145,250	
Threads and fruits for working	277,557	
Dyes and tannins	32,995	
Various	75,912	
Drinks	278,037	
		9,511,140
Minerals—		
Marbles, stones, combustibles, and minerals	393,698	
Metals	1,665,325	
		2,059,023
Manufactured goods—		
Chemical products	18,199	
Prepared dyes	7,606	
Colours	11,826	
Various compositions	34,847	
Potteries	12,459	
Glass and crystal	11,109	
Threads	558,627	
Tissues	624,916	
Paper	13,230	
Skins and furs	180,596	
Works in metal	147,956	
Arms, powder, and ammunition	63,668	
Furniture	6,400	
Works in wood	25,954	
Musical instruments	1,579	
Mat and basket-work	128,605	
Various	75,852	
		1,923,429
Total		15,394,299

French Possessions in West Africa.

(Senegal, Upper Senegal and Niger, French Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Dahomey.)

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	1,705,034	1,486,795	3,191,829
1897	1,772,839	1,422,506	3,195,345
1898	2,130,737	1,815,264	3,946,001
1899	2,770,135	1,903,758	4,673,893
1900	2,762,465	2,432,108	5,194,573
1901	3,232,588	2,025,935	5,258,523
1902	2,939,640	2,296,792	5,236,432
1903	3,597,934	2,874,971	6,472,905
1904	3,636,537	2,601,555	6,238,092
1905	3,874,698	2,248,917	6,123,615

TABLE showing the Movement of Commerce in 1905.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France..	1,663,300	1,066,867	2,730,167
French Colonies	153,907	12,050	165,957
Foreign countries ..	2,057,491	1,169,400	3,226,891
Total ..	3,874,698	2,248,317	6,123,015

The following Table shows the intercolonial commerce in West Africa :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
Senegal, Upper Senegal and Niger	2,132,591	982,574	3,115,165
Guinea..	756,993	654,947	1,411,940
Ivory Coast	555,813	305,430	861,243
Dahomey	429,301	305,366	734,667
Total ..	3,874,698	2,248,317	6,123,015

The following Tables show the details of the commerce of each one of these Colonies :—

SENEGAL, UPPER SENEGAL AND NIGER.

Year	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	990,308	716,619	1,705,927
1897	992,408	753,226	1,745,634
1898	1,215,159	1,007,090	2,222,249
1899	1,582,354	798,955	2,381,309
1900	1,422,531	1,198,566	2,621,097
1901	2,101,823	1,053,401	3,155,224
1902	1,434,801	1,022,511	2,457,312
1903	2,066,520	1,625,200	3,681,720
1904	1,993,970	1,196,836	3,190,806
1905	2,132,591	982,574	3,115,165

TABLE showing the Movement of Commerce in 1905.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France..	1,067,183	681,736	1,748,919
The French Colonies ..	151,396	9,561	160,957
Foreign	914,012	291,277	1,205,289
Total ..	2,132,591	982,574	3,115,165

In 1905 the principal foreign countries from which goods were imported were :—

		£
The British Isles	for	350,304
British Colonies	,,	93,807
Germany	,,	47,560
The United States	,,	46,928
Holland	,,	52,889

And the principal countries to which goods were exported were :—

		£
Holland	for	113,362
Germany	,,	56,333

The principal goods imported were :—

	£
Cotton tissues	674,329
Works in metal	149,817
Kolas	95,204
Rice	96,598
Sugars	61,850
Wines	63,892
Pit coal	93,463

The principal goods exported were :—

	£
Arachides	594,049
Rubber	188,000
Pit coal (re-exported)	58,945
Gums	50,776

French Guiana.

Table showing Commerce of French Guiana from 1896 to 1905.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	184,132	226,205	410,337
1897	298,140	268,604	566,744
1898	328,585	309,599	638,184
1899	543,966	364,220	908,186
1900	497,665	403,515	901,180
1901	292,857	309,184	602,041
1902	505,649	450,156	955,805
1903	717,719	563,630	1,281,349
1904	592,083	547,009	1,139,092
1905	756,993	654,947	1,411,940

Table showing Movement of Commerce in 1905.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	305,076	192,509	497,585
French Colonies	1,230	1,767	2,997
Foreign countries	450,687	460,671	911,358
Total	756,993	654,947	1,411,940

In 1905 the principal foreign countries from which goods were imported were :—

		£
The British Isles	for	245,673
Germany	,,	81,147
Liberia	,,	75,605

And the principal countries to which goods were exported were :—

		£
The British Isles	for	245,109
Germany	,,	136,342

The principal imports were :—

	£
Cotton tissues	221,624
Metal-work	132,217
Rice	35,527
Kolas	80,312

The principal exports were :—

	£
Rubber	509,698
Oxen	36,928

Ivory Coast.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	165,742	175,991	341,733
1897	159,645	188,586	348,231
1898	201,143	201,032	402,175
1899	217,904	232,645	450,549
1900	304,747	322,094	626,841
1901	247,365	248,716	496,081
1902	369,999	282,169	652,168
1903	363,125	304,538	667,663
1904	623,335	411,470	1,034,805
1905	555,813	305,430	861,243

Table showing the Movement of Commerce in 1905.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	192,611	84,231	276,842
French Colonies	1,280	115	1,395
Foreign countries ..	361,922	221,084	583,006
Total	555,813	305,430	861,243

In 1905 the principal foreign countries from which goods were imported were :—

	£
The British Isles and British Colonies	243,385
Germany and German Colonies	60,818

And the principal countries to which goods were exported were :—

	£
The British Isles	197,872
Germany	21,593

The principal imports were :—

	£
Cotton tissues	135,763
Metal-work	118,369
Alcohol	43,087

The principal exports were :—

	£
Rubber	210,211
Palm oil	45,874

Dahomey.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	364,852	368,980	733,832
1897	322,646	232,090	554,736
1898	377,849	297,542	675,391
1899	425,911	507,934	933,845
1900	537,522	507,932	1,045,454
1901	590,542	414,634	1,005,176
1902	629,190	541,955	1,171,145
1903	450,570	381,603	832,173
1904	427,250	446,240	873,490
1905	429,301	305,366	734,667

TABLE showing the Movement of Commerce in 1905.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	98,451	108,370	206,821
French Colonies	..	707	707
Foreign countries ..	330,850	196,289	527,139
Total	429,301	305,366	734,667

In 1905 the principal foreign countries from which goods were imported were :—

	£
The British Isles	66,135
Germany	129,875
Lagos	92,547

And the principal countries to which goods were exported were :—

	£
Germany	52,622
Lagos	142,872

The principal imports were :—

	£
Cotton tissues	136,989
Metal-work	63,820
Alcohol	33,405

The principal exports were :—

	£
Cabbage palms	157,319
Palm oil	95,834

FRENCH CONGO.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	187,874	187,674	375,548
1897	142,117	211,115	358,232
1898	193,425	227,812	421,237
1899	267,348	264,752	532,100
1900	419,855	301 581	721,436
1901	312,335	292,567	604,902
1902	220,384	334,138	554,522
1903	279,123	397,530	676,653
1904	362,326	485,419	847,745
1905	415,166	557,310	972,476

TABLE showing the Movement of Commerce in 1905.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	189,452	178,070	367,522
French Colonies	3,651	1,837	5,488
Foreign countries ..	222,063	377,403	599,466
Total ..	415,166	557,310	972,476

In 1905 the principal foreign countries from which goods were imported were :—

	£
The British Isles	100,406
Germany	32,406
Belgium	47,347

And the principal countries to which goods were exported were :—

	£
The British Isles	58,547
Belgium	309,952

The principal imports were :—

	£
Tissues	135,927
Metal-works	54,614
Drinks	35,285

The principal exports were :—

	£
Rubber	293,614
Ivory	160,403
Wood	87,925

Réunion.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	875,516	695,432	1,570,948
1897	866,467	739,301	1,605,768
1898	790,611	761,114	1,551,725
1899	838,253	614,299	1,453,552
1900	881,175	698,451	1,579,626
1901	946,788	728,021	1,674,809
1902	707,561	481,577	1,189,138
1903	860,344	767,676	1,628,020
1904	772,235	543,307	1,315,542
1905	727,383	388,222	1,115,605

The figures of 1905 are the lowest which have been reached since 1850. The commerce of Réunion shows a steady tendency to decline. The sugar crisis, which for the last twenty years has so unfavourably affected the "old Colonies," has been aggravated by the decisions of the last Brussels Convention.

The commerce of Réunion in old days was far more considerable, as shown by the following Table :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1850	933,329	752,386	1,685,715
1861	2,239,729	2,225,783	4,465,512
1870	1,105,094	1,140,190	2,152,284
1880	1,419,945	942,870	2,362,815
1890	1,212,578	691,033	1,903,611

Table showing the Movement of Commerce in 1905.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	434,164	328,641	762,805
French Colonies	66,399	15,580	81,979
Foreign countries ..	226,830	44,109	270,939
Total	727,393	388,330	1,115,723

The principal foreign country from which goods were imported in 1905 was India (123,369*l.*).

The chief imports were :—

	£
Rice	171,811
Pit coal	87,310
Cotton tissues	52,232
Grease	39,794
Wine	37,111
Metal-work	35,704

The principal exports were :—

	£
Sugar	194,928
Vanilla	40,456
Essence of geranium	40,894

Madagascar.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	559,517	144,238	703,755
1897	734,357	173,697	908,054
1898	865,112	198,982	1,064,094
1899	1,116,664	321,856	1,438,520
1900	1,618,832	424,955	2,043,787
1901	1,830,812	358,718	2,189,530
1902	1,639,103	525,097	2,164,200
1903	1,315,942	650,840	1,966,782
1904	1,049,344	777,086	1,826,430
1905	1,247,936	914,024	2,161,960

Table showing the Movement of Commerce in 1905.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	1,072,517	619,415	1,691,932
French Colonies	43,440	23,759	67,199
Foreign countries ..	131,979	270,850	402,829
Total	1,247,936	914,024	2,161,960

The principal foreign countries from which goods were imported in 1905 were the British Isles and the British Colonies, for 37,404*l.*

The principal countries to which goods were exported were :—

	£
Germany	164,473
The British Isles	45,065

The principal imports were :—

	£
Cotton tissues	526,929
Metal-works	89,014
Wine	77,466
Flour	40,598
Rice	35,823
Pit coal	32,436

The principal exports were :—

	£
Gold	275,173
Rubber	193,637
Raw hides	148,430
Rappia	95,113
Oxen	42,859
Wax	39,776

Mayotte and Dependencies.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	24,911	48,235	75,146
1897	18,142	47,871	86,013
1898	15,692	34,613	50,305
1899	22,465	52,397	74,862
1900	20,431	32,258	52,689
1901	19,456	40,050	59,506
1902	70,618	107,788	178,406
1903	68,611	95,275	163,886
1904	30,877	123,866	154,743

Table showing the Movement of Commerce in 1904.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	9,639	106,019	115,658
French Colonies	7,443	10,467	17,910
Foreign countries ..	13,795	7,380	21,175
Total ..	30,877	123,866	154,743

Somali Coast.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1899	120,974	55,660	176,634
1900	237,164	92,753	329,917
1901	293,387	273,804	567,191
1902	294,594	430,318	724,912
1903	301,209	418,036	719,245
1904	425,012	602,337	1,027,349
1905	477,197	728,760	1,205,957

Table showing the Movement of Commerce in 1905.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	46,837	50,889	127,726
French Colonies	59	11,476	11,535
Foreign countries ..	400,301	666,395	1,066,696
Total ..	477,197	728,760	1,205,957

The principal foreign countries from which goods were imported in 1905 were :—

	£
Aden	225,285
The British Isles	82,041

The principal country to which goods were exported was Abyssinia (284,237*l.*).
The principal imports were :—

	£
Cotton tissues	156,394
Flours for food	61,075
Metal-work	30,602
Pit coal	56,701

The principal exports were :—

	£
Coffee	142,480
Cotton tissue	141,037
Hides	90,552
Ivory	73,432
Wax	47,868
Pit coal	46,496

French Possessions in India.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	120,512	374,793	495,305
1897	148,325	600,443	748,768
1898	125,376	315,858	441,234
1899	192,440	371,334	563,774
1900	161,517	428,889	590,406
1901	151,707	890,127	1,041,834
1902	178,326	1,102,110	1,280,436
1903	372,784	1,122,360	1,495,144
1904	225,517	1,221,380	1,446,897
1905	254,248	1,087,440	1,341,688

Table showing the Movement of Commerce in 1905.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	26,589	534,745	561,334
French Colonies	790	87,679	88,469
Foreign countries	226,869	465,016	691,885
Total	254,248	1,087,440	1,341,688

The commerce of imports and exports is almost entirely with British India.
The principal goods imported are :—

	£
Raw cotton	75,700
Palm fruits	44,677
Jute tissues	17,477
Petroleum	23,868

The principal exports are :—

	£
Arachides	393,890
Cotton tissues	272,848
Unbleached thread	117,617
Rice	79,401
Hides	60,663
Arachide cakes	53,107

Indo-China.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	3,243,362	3,552,383	6,795,745
1897	3,527,320	4,689,398	8,216,718
1898	4,097,774	5,100,439	9,198,213
1899	4,616,980	5,517,492	10,134,472
1900	7,441,775	6,244,015	13,665,790
1901	8,099,107	6,424,335	14,523,442
1902	8,606,520	7,410,663	16,017,183
1903	8,170,155	4,817,940	12,988,095
1904	7,399,827	6,254,947	13,654,774
1905	10,182,411	6,750,306	16,932,717

TABLE showing the Movement of Commerce in 1905.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	4,314,586	1,233,295	5,547,881
French Colonies	163,568	76,855	240,423
Foreign countries ..	5,704,257	5,440,156	11,144,413
Total	10,182,411	6,750,306	16,932,717

In 1905 the principal foreign countries from which goods were imported were :—

		£
Hong Kong	for	2,473,882
Singapore	„	598,449
China and Japan	„	1,473,704
Burmah and Siam	„	289,542
The British Isles	„	141,381
The United States	„	126,425
Russia	„	74,335
Germany	„	64,943

The principal countries to which goods were exported were :—

		£
Hong Kong	for	1,706,597
China and Japan	„	497,288
Singapore	„	360,510
Burmah and Siam	„	80,071
The British Isles	„	55,539

The principal imports were :—

	£
Wheat	214,156
Rice	226,755
Raw opium	271,582
Raw cotton	167,020
Wine	340,027
Pit coal	206,221
Petroleum	388,163
Gold	203,369
Iron and steel	353,214
Tin	526,428
Cotton thread	672,040
Jute tissues	254,255
Cotton tissues	922,250
Silk tissues	241,113
Paper	344,633
Metal-work	1,170,576
Arms, powder, and ammunition	170,882

The principal exports were :—

	£
Dried fish, salt and smoked	151,415
Rice	2,848,389
Pepper	214,297
Pit coal	182,077
Tin	553,914
Cotton thread	421,162

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	343,401	420,799	764,200
1897	366,443	430,121	796,564
1898	508,812	638,576	1,147,388
1899	491,133	616,738	1,107,871
1900	367,641	538,698	906,339
1901	380,901	470,103	851,004
1902	356,304	491,837	848,141
1903	332,244	382,110	714,354
1904	249,227	306,415	555,642
1905	217,581	284,772	502,353

The figures for 1905 are the lowest since 1865. The highest were reached from 1885 to 1890. During these years, with the exception of 1886, the total commerce amounted to 1,240,000*l.*

TABLE showing the Movement of Commerce in 1905.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	104,683	242,936	347,619
French Colonies	1,598	9,306	10,904
Foreign countries ..	111,301	32,529	143,830
Total	217,581	284,772	502,353

The principal foreign countries from which goods were imported in 1905 were :—

		£
Canada	for	49,482
United States	„	40,860

And the principal countries to which goods were exported were :—

	£
Canada	9,815
Newfoundland	6,523

The principal imports were :—

	£
Metal-work	14,872
Flour	14,659
Wines	11,531
Woollen tissues	9,432
Salt	9,389
Live-stock	8,289

The principal export was cod (for 231,383*l.*).

GUADALOUPE.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	793,084	738,555	1,531,639
1897	720,691	605,814	1,326,505
1898	739,700	682,271	1,421,971
1899	737,843	717,964	1,455,807
1900	811,302	592,523	1,403,825
1901	786,672	675,988	1,462,660
1902	656,352	666,332	1,322,684
1903	654,362	712,500	1,366,862
1904	530,415	517,331	1,047,746
1905	537,536	625,499	1,163,035

The commerce of Guadaloupe has been considerably greater than at present, as shown by the following Table :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1860	1,187,220	809,685	1,996,905
1870	776,612	1,069,361	1,845,973
1880	1,066,688	1,672,465	2,739,153
1890	929,960	854,789	1,784,749

The following Table shows the movement of commerce in 1905 :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France.. .. .	276,032	601,417	877,449
French Colonies.. ..	13,338	14,402	27,740
Foreign countries ..	248,166	9,680	257,846
Total ..	537,536	625,499	1,163,035

The principal foreign countries from which goods were imported in 1905 were :—

	£
The United States	146,752
The British Isles	51,255

The principal imports were :—

	£
Rice	64,640
Flour	55,721
Chemical products	36,054
Cotton tissues	32,010
Cod	27,078
Manure	25,333
Wood	22,468

The principal exports were :—

	£
Sugar	437,870
Coffee	72,572
Rhum	39,391
Cocoa	36,491

Martinique.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	915,309	835,412	1,750,721
1897	859,483	754,325	1,616,808
1898	941,136	871,857	1,812,993
1899	995,953	1,030,197	2,026,150
1900	990,599	1,079,153	2,069,752
1901	1,056,937	932,949	1,989,886
1902	764,479	650,066	1,414,545
1903	815,582	604,163	1,419,745
1904	599,512	505,820	1,105,332
1905	590,367	722,777	1,313,144

The commerce of Martinique was considerably larger in the past than at present, as shown by the following Table :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1861	1,239,060	874,902	2,113,962
1871	1,325,551	1,394,047	2,719,598
1880	1,295,745	1,354,673	2,650,418
1890	1,210,454	934,004	2,144,458

The following Table shows the movement of commerce in 1905 :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France..	298,694	652,744	951,438
French Colonies	18,095	20,146	38,241
Foreign countries ..	273,577	49,887	323,464
Total	590,366	722,777	1,313,143

In 1905 the imports came mainly from the United States (205,683*l.*).
The principal imports were :—

	£
Pit coal	60,628
Chemical products	57,737
Flour	56,431
Metal-work	37,099
Cotton tissues	28,481
Cod	26,916

The principal exports were :—

	£
Sugar	467,712
Rhum	136,646
Pit coal	43,397
Cocoa	23,919

French Guiana.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	346,294	353,610	699,904
1897	377,091	284,706	661,797
1898	408,317	272,633	680,950
1899	455,287	270,778	726,065
1900	358,106	259,867	617,973
1901	449,062	341,546	790,608
1902	367,360	479,368	846,728
1903	418,723	493,215	911,938
1904	467,670	426,128	893,798
1905	457,575	397,579	855,154

The following Table shows the movement of commerce in 1905 :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France..	312,472	345,390	657,862
French Colonies	20,583	601	21,184
Foreign countries ..	124,519	51,589	176,108
Total	457,574	397,580	855,154

In 1905 the principal foreign countries from which goods were imported were :—

	£
British Colonies	52,165
The United States	42,951

The country to which goods were mainly exported was Switzerland (35,517*l.*).

The principal imports were :—

	£
Wine	46,568
Flour	41,206
Cotton tissues	34,247
Live-stock	27,759
Metal-work	25,069

The principal export was gold (373,976*l.*).

New Caledonia.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	358,704	229,942	588,646
1897	347,169	281,801	628,970
1898	390,112	269,469	659,581
1899	438,327	356,528	794,855
1900	486,490	354,788	841,278
1901	547,277	442,235	989,512
1902	537,847	491,329	1,029,176
1903	546,880	358,556	905,436
1904	499,146	441,660	940,806
1905	429,066	442,815	871,881

The following Table shows the movement of commerce in 1905 :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	230,495	112,812	343,307
French Colonies	6,945	788	7,733
Foreign countries ..	191,626	329,215	520,841
Total	429,063	442,815	871,881

The foreign country from which goods were mainly imported in 1905 was Australia (147,593*l.*).

The principal countries to which goods were exported were :—

	£
The British Isles	122,882
Australia	43,678

The principal imports were :—

	£
Metal-work	52,983
Wine	51,558
Cotton tissues	26,717
Flour	22,679
Clothes and linen	18,958

The principal exports were :—

	£
Nickel	226,314
Chrome	88,108
Cobalt	38,012
Coprah	21,791
Coffee	20,010

FRENCH ESTABLISHMENTS IN OCEANIA.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	110,930	129,743	240,673
1897	139,120	125,822	264,942
1898	113,964	116,125	230,089
1899	110,976	137,870	248,846
1900	139,359	141,969	281,328
1901	178,990	120,712	299,702
1902	152,919	170,723	323,642
1903	156,292	187,122	343,414
1904	128,796	142,528	271,324
1905	121,126	122,503	243,629

TABLE showing the Movement of Commerce in 1905.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
France	23,591	17,350	40,941
French Colonies	..	5,855	5,855
Foreign countries ..	97,535	99,298	196,833
Total ..	121,126	122,503	243,629

The principal foreign countries from which goods were imported in 1905 were :—

	£
The United States	60,242
New Zealand	22,653

Goods were mainly exported to the United States (71,461*l.*).
The principal imports were :—

	£
Tissues	22,442
Flour	14,766
Metal-work	7,621
Preserved meats	4,668
Pit coal	4,480
Wood-work	4,208

The principal exports were :—

	£
Coprah	75,965
Mother-of-pearl	15,492
Vanilla	12,208

ALGERIA AND TUNIS.

Although Algeria and Tunis, which depend respectively upon the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, cannot be considered as forming part of the French Colonial Empire, it may nevertheless be interesting to compare briefly their financial and commercial organization with those of the French Colonies properly.

ALGERIA.

The special Budget for Algeria was created by the Law of the 19th December, 1900. Up to that moment Algeria had no civil personality, her revenue and expenditure being included in those of France.

The special Budget for Algeria is drawn up by the Governor-General, under the control of the Minister of the Interior. It is discussed and voted by the financial delegations—a body created in accordance with the Decree of the 23rd August, 1898,

and composed of representatives elected by the Colonists, and the French tax-payers other than Colonists, and of delegates of the Mussulman population.

The Budget, when voted by the delegations, is submitted to the Higher Council, composed of the chief officials of the Colony and of seven members, three of whom are natives, appointed by the Governor-General.

The Higher Council adopts or rejects the decisions taken by the delegations, but has not the right of amending them. Finally, the Budget is fixed by Decree. The collection of the taxes and revenues applicable to the special Budget for Algeria must be annually authorized by the French finance law.

Revenue.

With regard to revenue, the questions of the imposition or abolition of taxes, of modifications in the Tariff, in the assessment or in the collection of taxes, are discussed by the financial delegations. Their decisions are adopted or rejected by the Higher Council, and when adopted are put into force by a Decree delivered in the Council of State.

Expenditure.

In accordance with the Law of the 19th December, 1900, Algeria must meet expenses for Civil Service and for the gendarmerie, the military expenditure being defrayed by the Home Government. Since the Law of the 23rd July, 1904, the special Budget also assumes the charge of the guarantees of interest on the Algerian railways, receiving in return a subvention from the Home Government.

Expenditure is divided into obligatory expenditure, the nature of which is determined by the law, and optional expenditure.

Railways.

As regards railways, any modification introduced in the existing contracts must be approved by a Decree delivered in the Council of State. A law is required to authorize a purchase "à l'amiable," or the grant of a new Concession. Similarly, a law is necessary to authorize loans, or to grant Concessions for important public works.

Commerce.

Commercially, Algeria is considered as forming part of France, and foreign goods pay the same duties as in France. At the same time, by the Laws of the 17th July, 1867, and of the 19th March, 1875, certain Colonial products, such as coffee, pepper, vanilla, tobacco, &c., enjoy special Tariffs on their entry into Algeria. Goods imported by the land frontier from Morocco, Southern Algeria, and Tunis are admitted free of duty.

Goods imported from Algeria into France pay no duty, excepting in the case of the articles mentioned above as enjoying special Tariffs, upon which a duty amounting to the difference between the home Tariff and the special Algerian Tariff is levied.

Tunis.

The Tunisian Budget was organized shortly after the French occupation by a Beylical Decree dated the 12th March, 1883, the provisions of which were subsequently completed by further Decrees.

The Budget is prepared by the Financial Director of the Regency, who is always a French official. It is examined by the Council of Ministers assembled under the presidency of the French Resident-General, and submitted to the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs. It is finally presented to the Bey for his sanction.

In accordance with Article II of the Franco-Tunisian Convention of the 8th June, 1883, the Beylical Government can contract no loan without the authorization of the French Government. This authorization is granted by a law.

Commercially, Tunis is absolutely free since the negotiations which led to the suppression of the Capitulations (1896–7).

The Tariffs are prepared by the Resident-General, and must receive the sanction of the Bey. Since the revision in 1896–7 of the Treaties concluded between Tunis and

the foreign Powers, these Tariffs have been very considerably modified. (Beylical Decree of the 2nd May, 1898.)

The greater portion of the products of the great French industries (metals, tissues, thread, machines, sugar, alcohol, &c.) are admitted free into Tunis, and duties have been imposed on foreign goods of the same nature, with a view to securing the preference for French goods on the Tunisian market.

In the same way, in accordance with the Law of the 19th July, 1890, a certain number of Tunisian products are admitted into France, either free of duty up to an amount settled annually by Decree (oils, live-stock, &c.), or under specially favourable conditions (wines).

As regards cereals Tunis has been assimilated to France by a Law dated the 19th July, 1904.

TABLE showing the Increase in Population and Area of the French Colonial Empire since 1845.

Colonies.	Population.			Area.		
	1845.	1870.	1906.	1845.	1870.	1906.
				Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.
Senegal	18,540	148,499	915,000	..	57,700	821,100
Upper Senegal and Niger ..	..	..	4,415,000	..	..	
French Guinea	..	..	1,498,000	..	..	
Ivory Coast	..	..	890,000	..	..	
Dahomey	..	..	749,000	..	..	
Congo	..	..	5,000,000	..	..	850,000
Réunion	103,048	212,236	173,315	900	900	900
Madagascar	..	3,121	2,701,081	..	..	226,000
Mayotte	33,051	21,097	96,314	800	800	800
Somali Coast	..	..	208,061	..	..	13,400
French possessions in India ..	181,239	262,798	277,723	200	200	200
Indo-China	..	1,225,213	16,317,246	..	60,300	261,000
St. Pierre and Miquelon.. ..	1,921	4,750	6,482	95	95	95
Guadaloupe	130,127	129,566	182,238	700	709	700
Martinique	122,474	153,927	182,024	380	380	380
Guiana	19,795	17,951	27,000	34,500	34,500	34,500
New Caledonia	..	5,794	55,886	..	9,000	9,000
Tahiti	..	..	30,000	..	1,500	1,500
Total	610,195	2,375,252	33,804,370	37,575	166,075	2,219,575

(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

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REPORT by the Hon. Reginald Lister, His Majesty's Minister at Paris, upon the French Colonies.

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